

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LVIII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 28th September, at Shanghai, the wife of Dr. PAUL KRIEG, of a son.
On the 29th September, at 62, Yangtzepoo Road, Shanghai, the wife of A. ROBERTSON DUNCAN, of a daughter.
On the 1st October, at No. 14, The Bund, Shanghai, the wife of F. BUSE, of a son.
On the 1st October, at No. 37B, Kingse Road, the wife of M. F. PREW, of a son.
At No. 153, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, the wife of FRANK GORE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 7th October, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. J. Johnson, M.A., Colonial Chaplain, EVAN ORMISTON, second son of the late WALTER ORMISTON, of Hongkong and Ash Grove, Whitechurch, Shropshire, to KATHLEEN ANNE, youngest daughter of FRANKLIN HOMAN, J.P., of Saxonbury, Rochester, Kent, England.

DEATHS.

On the 26th August, at Auchentoshan, Dalmuir, Dumbartonshire, PATRICK DAVIDSON, of Glendoo, Ayr, Scotland.
On the 26th September, at Shanghai, HILDA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. MARINS, aged 6 months.

On the 28th September, at Shanghai, JAMES KEENAN, aged 36 years.

On the 29th September, at General Hospital, Shanghai, SARAH LANG, wife of ROBERT WILSON, aged 39 years and 8 months.

On the 29th September, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, AGNES McGRAW SMITH, only daughter of the late JAMES SMITH, of S. C. Farnham & Co., aged 21 years and 4 months.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 4th ult., arrived per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons* on the 5th inst. (31 days); and the English mail of the 11th ult. arrived per P. & O. steamer *Malta* on the 9th inst. (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Messageries Maritimes s.s. *Australien* was refloated on the 8th inst.

H.E. Yang Chu, Chinese Minister to Japan, left by the s.s. *Kasuga Maru* about noon on Wednesday, having spent a couple of days in this Colony.

There was a persistent rumour afloat in Peking at the end of last month that Japan had sent an ultimatum to Russia about the evacuation of Manchuria by the 8th October.

We are informed from a native source from Shanghai that H.E. Wu Ting-fang, late Minister for China at Washington, left Shanghai some days ago to take up his new appointment on the Board of Commerce at Peking.

The *N.-C. Daily News* publishes the following telegram dated Tientsin, 28th September.—The disease at Peitang is plague, not cholera; this has been known for the past six weeks. Tientsin and Taku are not affected and no alarm is felt.

A traveller from Kirin, who has lately returned to the coast, reports that the Russians are building brick-walled camps along the Sugari River at a distance of ten li apart; also on the Heilukiang. They are described in appearance as like small walled cities.

On the 3rd inst. the local Banks received telegrams from Singapore stating that the import of British and Mexican dollars 263 henceforth prohibited.—The reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the petition of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce for an enquiry into the local currency question has been received, and will be found on p. 266.

Our KOBE correspondent telegraphed on the morning of the 8th October that there is good authority for saying that Baron Rosen has presented a Memorandum to Japan, in which Russia practically declines to withdraw from Manchuria; but she would agree to recognise Japan's paramount influence in Corea and to respect Japan's prestige and interests in Manchuria. Baron Komura has replied that in such a case there is no room for further negotiations.

It is reported, the *P. & T. Times* says, that the last audience of the ladies in Peking with the Empress-Dowager is soon to take place. Some time since the murder of Shen Ke-wei several ladies said that they did not wish to see the Empress again. Now the sentiment seems to be general. It is certain that the determination of the Empress-Dowager to stamp out everything which looks toward reform is fixed. Men of progressive ideas are decidedly at a discount, and reform hides its head.

It is reported up north that certain of the censors asked the Throne to send Yuan Shi-kai to Kwangsi to administer the military operations of that province, as Yuan has more military experience than H.E. Shum. The Throne intends to watch the development of events for another two or three months. Yuan Shi-kai is said to appear quite confident that he will be sent to relieve Shum of the difficult task. This is a northern tale, like many we have seen lately directed against the Viceroy of the Two Kwang.

The Peking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, under date 29th September, telegraphed:—The Chinese Government has refused the new Russian demands on the ground that the Government cannot enter into any negotiations before the Russian troops have evacuated Manchuria according to the existing convention. Prince Ching is supposed to have come to this determination under the influence of the protestations of the Japanese Minister, and the warnings of the United States.

At a public Banquet in his honour at Singapore on the 7th inst. Sir Frank Swettenham replying to the toast of his health, said that he always put to the forefront justice to all classes and creeds. He believed that in the future Great Britain would have a great Malayan Empire, the beginnings of which were now apparent. The Sultans of Perak and Pahang, and the Governor of British North Borneo were present at the Banquet. Sir Frank Swettenham leaves the Straits on Monday for a short holiday.

John Miller, ex-Insp. of Immigration, has been arrested in Manila, charged with issuing false Chinese certificates. An extradition warrant is being prepared for the arrest of another ex-inspector. The detectives who seized Miller's papers discovered a contract proposing to land two hundred Chinese. Other papers mention the names of prominent officials, suggesting the amount of "squeeze" required. It is believed that several hundred coolies, in the guise of merchants, have already entered the Philippines. The Customs agents employed a coolie who paid 400 pesos for a false certificate, and reached Manila uninterrupted, thereby completing the chain of evidence.

The following, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, comes from a thoroughly reliable source in Port Arthur:—The Russian officials here have issued instructions summarily ordering all kinds of private constructional work in progress in Port Arthur and environs, irrespective of nationality, to be compulsorily stopped. Government work of course not being included. Work on the Eastern Railway—which to all intents and purposes is Government property—alone is allowed to go on, while word has also gone forth calling for tenders for the immediate construction of new barracks capable of holding at least 50,000 men, this being the additional number of troops expected from Russia and Siberia for the protection of Port Arthur and vicinity in the event of war with Japan.

The North Siamese correspondent of the *Bangkok Times* says:—The country is all quiet again, so far as the Shans are concerned, except in the districts near the 25-kilometre zone. Not until this zone disappears as a favoured strip of territory, will it cease to be a refuge for dacoits and evil doers of all descriptions. All kinds of rumours are abroad concerning large bands of Shans gathering in Chiang Kawng on both sides of the river, but it seems impossible to find out the truth. As it is now, criminals from British, French and Siamese territory all find this unfettered zone a very comfortable home from where, as headquarters, they can make a rushed attack on any one of a large number of villages across the British border, or on any village across the Kawng in French territory, or better still on the helpless villages near the zone in Siam.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 8th October)

The news telegraphed by our Kobe correspondent yesterday morning is the most serious which has yet been announced since relations between Japan and Russia assumed their present strained aspect. All, of course, depends on the "good authority" mentioned by our correspondent. If it is sufficient to guarantee the validity of the report of Russia's memorandum to Japan and of the Japanese Foreign Minister's answer thereto, then it is useless to disguise the fact that prospects are very threatening. It has been rumoured from several sources, including the *Times* Peking correspondent, that Japan proposed to Russia some sort of a deal whereby Russia's position in Manchuria should be compensated by a like Japanese supremacy in Korea. The details of this arrangement were variously filled in by some of the correspondents. There was, however, no official confirmation, either Japanese or Russian, of such a report—as, indeed, was only to be expected. All that was known for certain, therefore, was that Russo-Japanese negotiations were proceeding at St. Petersburg. On the 23rd of last month Baron ROSEN left Nagasaki for Port Arthur, his departure causing much speculation in the Japanese Press. The *Japan Mail* of the 25th ultimo, noting this, remarks that it does not appear to occur to the vernacular papers that Viceroy ALEXIEFF was on the point of holding at Port Arthur a council of all the principal officers and officials within his command, and that he might very reasonably have desired the assistance of Baron ROSEN's advice. But while making this suggestion, the *Mail* does not wish to minimise the importance of Baron ROSEN's visit to Port Arthur, "for not only his very exceptional knowledge of Far Eastern affairs in general, and of Japan in particular, but also his liberal and moderate views can not fail to produce a salutary influence on the personages assembled at Port Arthur."

If now our Kobe correspondent's authority is correct (and his judgment is one which may be safely relied on), Baron ROSEN, for all his moderation, has been obliged to be the means of presenting to Japan a document which that country does not find satisfactory. If Baron KOMURA, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, has actually stated that "there is no room for further negotiations," this is tantamount to a declaration of war. Yet only nine days ago the Tokyo correspondent of the *North-China Daily News* telegraphed to the Shanghai paper, stating that much surprise had been caused in Japan in consequence of the rumours circulated in Europe concerning warlike preparations or war-fever in Japan; and that the situation did not inspire any new anxiety. Of course it is possible for the situation to change very rapidly in the lapse of a few days. Nevertheless, after the frequent reiterations of Japan's calm attitude (and there is no doubt that it was perfectly correct and diplomatic), it is surprising to read now so strongly provocative a declaration from the most responsible Minister, if Baron KOMURA has indeed made the reply attributed to him. The fact of the report being made now may or may not be taken as evidence of its truth. The 8th October being the original date fixed for the Russian withdrawal from Manchuria, it was popularly and naturally rumoured that Japan had given Russia up to that day to reply to her demands with regard to Manchuria. Yesterday was the 8th October, and Russia's alleged reply was announced. This might

be an example of "the intelligent anticipation of events" of which we hear so much nowadays. So we are brought back once more to the question of the goodness of the authority responsible for the report which our Kobe representative has telegraphed. One thing is certain, that if the tale of Russia's memorandum and Japan's reply is true, then we are on the brink of a war which must be terrible and far-reaching in its results.

CRIME IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 7th October.)

Just twenty-five years ago to-day a public meeting of an extraordinary character was held on the Cricket Ground at Hongkong to discuss the then existing state of insecurity of life and property in the Colony, and to pass such resolutions as might be advisable. We cannot here describe all the features of that meeting, but it will perhaps suffice to say that the European residents when they turned up at the City Hall, found the room packed full of Chinese, almost without exception Chinese unable to speak or understand any English, who, it was very openly alleged, had been induced to attend by the supporters of the Governor, Mr. (afterwards Sir JOHN) POPE HENNESSY. An adjournment to the Cricket Ground was thereupon moved and carried—it was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon—and the leading residents were enabled to occupy the central position, while the others had to be content with positions in the outer circle. The debate was characterised by some very acrimonious language from the late Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, then Acting Police Magistrate, who was twice obliged to apologise, once to the Chairman, Mr. H. B. GRIBB. Ultimately a resolution was put to the meeting and carried, amid acclamations and almost unanimously. The Hon. W. KESWICK, M.L.C., proposed and Mr. W. REINERS seconded: "that during the past eighteen months life and property in this Colony have been seriously jeopardised and a feeling of insecurity, the result of recent events, has been engendered, which in the opinion of this meeting has been mainly caused by a policy of undue leniency toward the criminal classes." As it was only a short time before that the notorious outrage on Winglok Street, Hongkong, had occurred, it is easy to understand the reference to insecurity of life; while there had been an unusual amount of thefts, burglaries, etc., in the Colony. The state of affairs had become so serious that almost every European resident, and the better class Chinese as well, were convinced of the necessity of a public appeal for protection.

Now, we do not at all wish to compare the state of things existing in 1878 and now, nor to suggest that the present Government is following the same feeble line of policy that marked Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY's rule. But it cannot be denied that the present "wave of crime" presents certain analogies, as far as insecurity of property is concerned, to that of 1878, and that, as then it was the general opinion of the respectable residents, of all nationalities, that severer steps should be taken to meet the unusual outbreak of criminality, so now it is generally held that the situation is being dealt with in an inadequate fashion. Anyone who reads the Hongkong newspapers must be aware that there has been an extraordinary amount of robbery, both petty theft and open burglary, during recent months; but there are hundreds of cases of the kind which never become public, including a vast amount of theft from the wealthier Chinese, who, though we hear little about it as a rule, suffer very heavily at the

hands of their countrymen of the criminal class. The fact is almost universally recognised among Hongkong householders that there is an extraordinary number of dishonest persons, servants and vagabonds alike, in the Colony at the present moment. There is a strong feeling that no measures are being taken which can in any way cope with this efflorescence of knavery. Yet, as is the wont of Hongkong, the only outcome of the sentiments of grave dissatisfaction at the state of affairs is a lot of grumbling in private circles, which after all does no good at all. If the sufferers at the hands of the thieving gangs wish to get the situation altered they must do more than merely make complaints to one another; they must bring their influence to bear on the authorities. The latter, we may be sure, are not insensible to the gravity of affairs; but they show the usual lack of initiative.

(Daily Press, 8th October.)

We notice that in reproducing from the *Daily Press* some particulars of recent burglaries in Hongkong, the *Kobe Chronicle* appends the following note:—"By the way, 'crime is more severely punished in Hongkong than in Japan, and yet there is much less crime, especially crimes of violence, in the large ports of this country than in the British colony. Notice of this fact should be taken by those of our contemporaries who are continually urging that crime in Hongkong should be dealt with by measures of greater severity.' We may consider ourselves as being conspicuously one of the contemporaries referred to, and while we are glad to take notice of the pleasing facts mentioned by the Kobe paper we fail to see what application they have to the circumstances in Hongkong. Surely, from this and similar paragraphs which we have noticed from time to time in the columns of our Kobe contemporary, we are not expected to draw the conclusion that greater leniency in the penalties imposed by the Hongkong magistrates on wrong-doers would tend to diminish crime in this Colony! We are not of the opinion that severe penalties fail to have a deterrent effect on the criminal classes, though there is some reason to doubt whether in Hongkong mere imprisonment, be the term long or short, is the form of punishment best calculated to check effectually the periodical outcrop of criminality from which this Colony suffers. No comparison, of course, can reasonably be drawn in this connection between this Colony and the large ports of Japan. If Kobe, for example, had Canton as a near neighbour, instead of Osaka, we do not doubt that the Editor of our contemporary and the residents of Kobe generally would soon find good cause to be as clamorous for severer measures against the perpetrators of crime as are the Press and the public of Hongkong. Greater leniency of penalties does not induce, but naturally follows, a steady abatement of crime in a nation, for lower criminal statistics are as a rule due to the spread of popular education, inducing a growing moral sense among the criminal classes and a keener susceptibility to public disgrace. At present, and for a long time yet to come, Hongkong, by reason of its proximity to Canton and other hotbeds of crime, cannot hope for much assistance from any other educational means than stern measures of repression. The recent use of the stocks in some very bad cases, we have some reason to believe, has had a most wholesome effect, and we are satisfied that we are voicing the sentiment of the law-abiding residents of all

nationalities in Hongkong when we express the hope that our magistrates in such epidemics of crime as we have recently been experiencing will punish such offenders as are brought before them with exemplary severity.

THE GOVERNMENT AND HONGKONG'S CURRENCY.

(Daily Press, 6th October.)

The long-expected reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the letter of the Secretary of our local Chamber of Commerce, conveying a resolution of the Chamber passed on the 18th February with regard to the currency question, was laid upon the table at the Legislative Council meeting yesterday. We publish the correspondence in another column. It may be seen that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S answer, as we suggested yesterday, is a direct refusal to appoint a commission of enquiry, the reason given being that while China remains a silver-standard country it is out of the question for Hongkong to adopt a gold standard. The conference of delegates from the United States, Mexico, and China with representatives of Great Britain is also alluded to by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, and a copy of their resolutions is appended to his letter, which contains references to China's currency.

The resolution of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, passed on the 18th February, by a majority of 40 to 25 votes on a show of hands, and by 40 to 34 on the voting cards signed in the Chamber Room, declared that in the opinion of the meeting it was desirable that the Straits Currency Commission should extend its enquiries to Hongkong with a view to ascertaining whether reform of the Colony's currency arrangements is advisable. This was forwarded, under cover of the Secretary's letter, to the Government, and on the 2nd April H.E. the Governor sent Mr. Lowe's letter with a despatch of his own to the Colonial Office. In his despatch Sir HENRY BLAKE relates that he laid the Chamber's letter before the Executive Council, when a majority of that body advised him that "it would be well to have a commission appointed to enquire into the currency question so far as it affected Hongkong, but that such a commission should be separate and distinct from that appointed to enquire into the question in Singapore." Though the Executive Council offered no opinion as to the advisability of a gold standard for Hongkong, we should have thought that its opinion recorded above would have been sufficient to carry weight with H.E. the Governor. However, this was not so, for he thought it necessary to communicate with "a number of the most important merchants, managers of shipping companies, and bankers in the Colony"—i.e., it must be observed, at least a section of that Chamber of Commerce which had already passed a resolution in favour of a commission of enquiry—requesting their views on the subject. These views are not printed, but His Excellency states that they show that, "among the mercantile men who have the largest stake in the Colony, including British, German, and Chinese, there is almost an unanimous feeling against any interference with the present currency so long as the Chinese currency remains what it is." This being so, we would ask what became of the majority of the members of the Chamber of Commerce on the 18th February. Either they are to be classed as men who have but a small stake in the Colony, or else they have changed their minds since February. The latter alternative is demon-

strably incorrect. Are we then to suppose that the head of the Government considers them a quantity which can be neglected?

Sir HENRY BLAKE, in the next paragraph of his despatch, proceeds to point out certain objections to the establishment of a gold standard, objections which would very properly be taken into consideration by any commission of enquiry. With reference to the questions which he asks, Sir HENRY rightly observes that they can be answered in London as well as in Hongkong and require to be very carefully considered before any step is taken that will disturb present conditions. But we would ask: Because these questions require careful consideration, is that any reason why there should be no enquiry? We fail to see the reason and can only express our great disappointment at the attitude of the head of the Government over the question of an enquiry asked for by a majority of the Chamber of Commerce and approved, with a slight modification, by the Executive Council of the Colony. The resolution of the Chamber went home prejudged. Truly it is difficult for those in favour of amelioration of the present state of currency affairs in Hongkong to obtain a fair hearing.

THE "BEACHCOMBER" QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 5th October.)

Our Manila correspondent describes the unusual steps being taken by the Insular Government to get rid of the worthless characters and vagrants in the Philippines, whose numbers have increased largely of late, with the result that the gaols have furnished a temporary home for many. The Government has now authorised the courts to suspend sentence upon a convicted vagrant, provided that the convict will leave the Philippines and not return for ten years; if he is an United States citizen, he may be removed to the Manila penitentiary, remaining in custody there until he can be placed upon a steamer returning to the United States. The last few words are welcome to read, for they appear to guarantee a partial cessation of the objectionable, and indeed wholly unjustifiable, habit which has prevailed in the Far East of making Hongkong a dumping-ground for wastrels of all nationalities. But it is to be noted that the deported men who are not to be let loose upon us are only American. Are we still to get the others? Of course, as far as Manila is concerned, the chief "export" of undesirable persons to this Colony has been of American or nominally American, i.e. United States, nationality. The *Manila Times* discussed this subject recently and said:—"The newspapers of Hongkong are very much exercised over the determination of the Philippine government to rid the islands of the 'undesirable, petty criminal class of Americans.' The neighbour town appears to take it for granted that Manila's beachcombers will be shipped over and dumped into the coast towns of China, and the attention of the authorities of these cities has been directed toward the prevention of such an imposition. Owing to the fact that the Philippine Commission has determined to ship this objectionable fraternity to the United States and will be just as careful in guarding against the escape of any of its members to the coast cities of China as the authorities there can possibly be to prevent the landing of any of the 'fraternity,' it will really appear that the alarm is without foundation." The *Times* would reassure us, and says that the government of the Philippines has no desire to

humiliate further respectable Americans in Hongkong or Manila by any attempt to pollute Chinese cities with a class of Americans who cannot be tolerated in the Philippines. The result of Hongkong's complaints is satisfactory; but the possession of undesirables is not confined to Manila, nor is their nationality confined to the United States. Steps are now required to prevent deported persons from other places and of other nationalities from being shipped hither. It should certainly be made impossible for neighbouring ports to pass on to us, without due notice, proved beachcombers and suspected characters.

STRAITS CURRENCY.

(Daily Press, 5th October.)

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Malta* was due to arrive at Singapore about Saturday with a large consignment of the new Straits dollars, as we announced a short time ago. It appears that she must have reached Singapore on Friday last, as the principal banks here were informed on Saturday morning from their branches in the Southern port that the import of British and Mexican dollars thither has been prohibited. This step has of course been anticipated, it being understood that the Straits Government was only awaiting the arrival of a sufficient supply of its new dollars, which have been minted at Bombay, to enable it to dispense with any further importation of British and Mexican coins. The latter are still legal tender, but no more will be allowed to enter the Straits Settlements from without. Thus the first actual step in the establishment of a fixed standard for silver in the Straits has been taken, and the progress of a change which must ultimately occur also in Hongkong may now be witnessed in the neighbouring British Colony. Needless to say, it will be watched with the greatest interest. The Philippines anticipated the alteration in currency by a few months, and there can be no doubt that the difficulties encountered there will repeat themselves in the Straits. But that they will not be overcome in time and with tact no one can believe. That the change will be advantageous many dispute, but their arguments fail to convince those who know the evils of a fluctuating standard of exchange. The latter welcome the conversion of Singapore to the side of the fixed standard. Here in Hongkong we can only watch still and not yet share in the benefits expected, condemned, it appears, definitely to wait upon the action of China, and also, it is now certain, refused the commission of enquiry asked for by the local Chamber of Commerce.

THE EVACUATION OF MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 8th October.)

To-day is the date fixed for the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the province of Helungkiang, completing the "evacuation" of Manchuria. As a matter of fact, little interest attaches to the question whether Russia will keep up the farce of fulfilling her engagement or not. The so-called withdrawal of her soldiers from Mukden and Kirin (the latter movement, even on Russian showing, was never actually completed) has made no difference to her conduct in Southern Manchuria, and as she is now busily fortifying the Sungari river-bank at various points and taking steps to make it a Russian river, it is more than clear that the evacuation of Helungkiang will be as unreal as the rest of her professed policy in Manchuria. The only new factor in

the situation is the supposed Japanese demands advanced since the second stage of the evacuation, which terminated on the 8th April last, a year after the signature of the Manchurian Convention at Peking last year. The nature of these demands is unknown. It is supposed that they include a request for a Japanese supremacy in Korea similar to Russia's position in Manchuria. Chinese rumours anticipate immediate trouble, if not actual war, if Russia neglects Japan's demands or fails to remove her troops from Helungkiang. The latest reports from Japan, on the other hand, indicate increased calm in the Island Empire. But no one not in the inner circles of Japanese and Russian diplomacy is in a position to estimate the situation justly, while such politicians naturally have their lips sealed at present. This being the case, few would care to speculate what may happen in the immediate future. Both Japan and Russia officially proclaim the most peaceful intentions. In both countries there is much variety of opinion in the Press, but the non-official journals are distinctly inclined to be bellicose in tone. Confidence is felt, however, that the Tokyo and St. Petersburg Governments alike are loth to disturb the peace of the Far East, since there is no possibility of foreseeing the end of the struggle.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Monday at noon in the Council Chamber.

Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

Colonel L. F. BROWN (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. F. H. MAY C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY S. BERKELEY, Kt. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Harbour Master.)

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. J. M. ATKINSON (Principal Civil Medical Officer).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

THE ESTIMATES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 10) and moved its adoption. He said—Your Excellency, in bringing up this report I have to state that in the Finance Committee, when the Ecclesiastical Vote came before the Committee, certain unofficial members expressed the opinion that, in view of the large addition to the services rendered in the gaol and hospital by chaplains, this vote might well be increased. I asked the hon. member who supported this recommendation to furnish me with facts which I could lay before your Excellency in support of the recommendation, and I said I was sure the recommendation would receive consideration at your Excellency's hands. On the vote for the Sanitary Department coming before the Committee certain of the unofficial members asked for an assurance from the Government that as much supervision is exercised as would render it impossible for such a large sum to be otherwise spent than in a proper and efficient manner. Such an assurance was forthcoming from the President of the Sanitary Board, and I also promised on behalf of the Government to lay on the table in due course a report showing how the permanent staff for plague purposes is employed in non-epidemic times. Finally I think it right to mention that under the vote Public Works Extraordinary on the vote for a prison on Stonecutters Island, the senior unofficial member for the

Chinese asked that, seeing that the construction of this prison on the site named is still under the consideration of the Public Works Committee, the Government would undertake, in the event of that Committee reporting against the site, not to build a prison on Stonecutters. I was unable, sir, to give any such undertaking, but I assured the hon. member that any recommendation of the Public Works Committee, especially in such an important matter as building a large convict prison, would receive the very earnest consideration of the Government. All the items of the Appropriation Bill were adopted by the Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded the motion.

HIS EXCELLENCY—With reference to what has fallen from the Colonial Secretary in his observations before the Council, I may say at once that if the unofficial members are of opinion that this Ecclesiastical Vote is too small, and if their opinion is placed before me, I shall most certainly send forward that opinion to the Secretary of State, and I shall support it, simply on the ground that the unofficial members are all in favour of it. With reference to the Sanitary Department, the policy of the Government—and no one realises more clearly than I do the enormous increase in the expenses of the Department—has been that we have laid ourselves open for the last three or four years to try by every means in our power to eradicate this plague from amongst us. The Sanitary Department have left nothing undone, I believe, that has presented itself to them, and it has been the policy, as I said, of the Government to grant to the Sanitary Department every request that was put before this Government for the purpose of increasing in their opinion the efficiency of the Department and the means to combat this epidemic. At the same time we have looked as closely as we could; leaving them the responsibility and accepting from the Sanitary Department their assurance of what they considered to be best, we have still examined matters, and if it had appeared to the Government that there was any undue expenditure we certainly would have placed that before the Sanitary Board for their consideration. Now that matters are getting more settled, as I think has been shown to you, gentlemen, there has been a decrease, and I hope that it may be possible in the future to have a further decrease in the enormous expenditure of this Department. But we must always remember that, whatever money has to be spent in this matter, if we do not secure efficiency all the money is wasted (hear, hear), and if we can only secure what we are aiming at, well I conclude that what seems to be the general consensus of opinion in the Colony is that no amount of money within the means of the Colony would be too much. With reference to the matter of the prison on Stonecutters' Island, that has been a long time under consideration, and I am pretty sure myself that, after all the facts with reference to it have been fully considered, the Public Works Committee will be driven to the conclusion that we must go to Stonecutters' Island after all. If we could have avoided it the tendency is rather in favour of having the prison elsewhere, but I have considered it very carefully myself and I do not think you will find any other position that would be so satisfactory in every way, when you look all round the question, as the prison on Stonecutters' Island.

The motion was agreed to.

CURRENCY IN HONGKONG.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table correspondence relating to the currency question in Hongkong.

THE ESTIMATES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved the third reading of the Appropriation Bill. He said—I produce my certificate under Section 40 of the Standing Orders that the Appropriation Bill was considered clause by clause by the Finance Committee of the Council in the presence of all the members of that Committee. In view of that certificate and in view of the fact that all the items were recommended by the Finance Committee it is not necessary under the Standing Orders for the Council to consider this Bill in Committee of the whole Council. I beg leave therefore to move the third reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

DEFINING THE BOUNDARIES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to define the boundaries of the City of Victoria. He said—This Bill is brought in in order that we may have one definition for future use for defining the boundaries of the City. Ordinances constantly come before this Council in which reference is made to the City of Victoria, and in each case it is necessary to define the meaning of the expression "City of Victoria;" indeed, it had not been always defined. Moreover, those definitions have not been exact enough. For instance, the western boundary is described as Mount Davis, which is elastic or non-elastic as the case may be. Therefore the Government thought it wise to introduce a Bill which would define the boundaries, or at all events for a sufficiently long time to prevent the inconvenience that at present exists.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Council then resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

It was agreed on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL to add in the fourth line of the second clause, after the words "City of Victoria," the words "or town of Victoria," as in some of the Ordinances the word "town" was used; and in the same line to strike out the words "as the name of the said City in any Ordinance" and insert "or in any rule, regulation or by-law made under any Ordinance."

Colonel BROWN drew attention to the expression used in the Bill, "the level of the sea," and suggested that a better expression would be "mean sea level."

It was ultimately agreed to strike out these words and substitute "Ordinance datum."

The Bill was left in Committee.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT AMENDMENT ACT.

When the Council resumed,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Ordinance to exempt certain Ships from the requirements of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, No. 36 of 1899. He said—The object of this Bill is to exempt small ships trading between Hongkong and places such as Macao and ports on the Canton River and on the rivers of the interior of the two Kwang provinces from the obligation of carrying the full complement of certificated officers which the section in the original Ordinance requires. It has been said, and we believe it to be true, that the necessity of complying with these regulations rendered it extremely difficult for the small ships that the present Bill contemplated to compete on the terms of equality that they ought to with others who are exempt from the necessity of complying with the Ordinance. It has been considered very carefully at one time, whether ships should be exempted altogether from carrying certificated officers, but it did not seem wise or expedient to go the full length. So that has been met by requiring that one certificated officer shall be carried instead of the full complement required by the Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

On the Bill being considered in Committee the only amendment made was the insertion of the word "Kwangsi," so as to bring vessels trading to both provinces within the scope of the Ordinance.

On the Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, moved the suspension of the Standing Orders and that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The motion was agreed to.

ENTICING AWAY MARRIED WOMEN.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890. He said—The title of the Bill does not altogether give any indication of what it is intended to effect, but the most direct and simplest way of dealing with the mischief that it was desired to remedy is, I am of opinion, to give powers to the Magistrate under the Magistrates Ordinance of 1890. The object of this Bill is to check the growth or habit which it is complained has sprung up and is becoming prevalent, of women leaving their husbands in the New Territory on undue and improper inducement by other men.

The position of matters is becoming quite acute, as reports prove in the New Territory, and something must be done. It is a very delicate matter to handle, but I think we are approaching it in the right way. Of course, in ordinary, the remedy would be a civil one, but this is not an ordinary matter; or rather the circumstances are not ordinary but quite extraordinary. There is no such thing in practice as a civil remedy in the New Territory, and at the same time it does not make for the proper maintenance of peace and good order to have men without any remedy at all against the persons who deprive them of the women of their households. It is therefore proposed that every person who without reasonable excuse shall knowingly receive or harbour any Chinese woman married according to the laws or customs of China who has left the protection of her husband shall be liable on conviction before a magistrate in a summary way to a penalty not exceeding \$100, or in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding three months. Of course in legislating, as it were for the protection of a husband in his household one has to be extremely careful that the law is not such as might be made a weapon for undue oppression of the women who form the household, and so the Bill provides that no woman shall be deemed to have left her husband without reasonable excuse or cause if it can be shown to the magistrate that the husband deserted her or failed properly to maintain her or ill-used her. I believe that with that safeguard the provisions of this Bill will be found to be useful in preventing a habit which, unless checked, will lead to mischief in the New Territory.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill.

Clause 1 read as follows:—"This Ordinance may be cited as the Magistrates (Amendment) Ordinance, 1903, and shall be read and construed as one with the Magistrates Ordinance, 893, and the Magistrates Ordinance, 1898.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved that instead of the words "Ordinance, 1890, and Magistrates' Ordinance, 1898," the words "Ordinances 1890 to 1900" be substituted. In Ordinance 16 of 1900 the original Ordinance and the amending Ordinances were cited together as the "Magistrates Ordinances 1890 to 1900." He thought it advisable to adopt that expression in this Ordinance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL held that the amendment was neither desirable, expedient, nor in any way required. In the case referred to by the hon. member it was necessary to refer to all the Ordinances; here it was not.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK contended that the other Ordinances were just as germane to this Ordinance as to No. 16 of 1900.

On a vote being taken there voted for the amendment—Mr. Pollock, Mr. Dickson, Dr. Ho Kai, and Mr. Wei Yuk—4; and against the amendment—the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Treasurer, the Harbour-Master, the Director of Public Works, the Principal Civil Medical Officer, the Colonel Commanding, and Sir Paul Chater. Mr. Gershom Stewart did not vote.

The amendment was therefore lost.

The COLONIAL TREASURER raised the objection that the Bill referred to the whole of China. The scope should be limited to the Colony.

HIS EXCELLENCY supposed a case of a man living at Samohun whose wife came over the boundary on to the British side. Suppose she were robbed, they would punish the robbers. If the woman was enticed across the border and enticing was made an offence, surely the husband ought to have redress as well as in the case of robbery? There had been complaints from people in the New Territory.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said they had had similar complaints from people in Canton and other places from many years.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI remarked that the Chinese had very severe laws against harbouring a runaway wife—so many strokes and sometimes decapitation. These laws did not apply to the New Territory and it was right that some such protection as was contemplated in the Ordinance should be introduced.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said the question had never been raised until now, and he found that complaints from the New Territory were the reason given for it.

HIS EXCELLENCY replied that that was because the New Territory was the only part from which they had complaints.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said that when he was Registrar-General in 1893 he frequently investigated cases of this kind.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY remarked that they had some power under the Women and Children Protection Ordinance; this would be increased by the proposed Ordinance. If there was any doubt about it they should leave the Bill in Committee and refer it to the Registrar-General.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that the Registrar-General had already gone through the Bill and it did not go as far as he wanted.

HIS EXCELLENCY said the only point seemed to be whether they should confine the protection, which the Ordinance gave to husbands, to husbands residing in the Colony.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL saw no objection to the addition of the words "Domiciled in the Colony."

Hon. WEI YUK thought the Ordinance would be of no use if they restricted its scope.

HIS EXCELLENCY added that the reason for the introduction of the Ordinance was that some men in the new Territory had complained of their wives being enticed away, and found out that he had no power to act in the matter. They wanted to give such men a redress by law. It would be well perhaps to adjourn consideration of the Ordinance.

This course was agreed to and the Bill was left in Committee.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President), presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works (Vice-President); Mr. C. McI. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting C.S.P.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett; Dr. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

PREVENTION OF PLAGUE NEXT YEAR.

There appeared on the agenda, as to be considered confidentially, a minute by the M.O.H. relative to the question of what preventative measures are to be undertaken during the coming winter against plague next year.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN moved the suspension of the Standing Orders to allow him to move a certain alteration of the agenda.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN then moved that the item mentioned above be considered in public; it had been customary in previous years to consider this matter in public, and the principle ought to be adhered to.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

The PRESIDENT stated that he had no objection to this being done. The only thing he wished to say was that this involved a considerable amount of expenditure and matters of that kind were generally considered in private.

The motion was agreed to.

At a later stage,

The PRESIDENT said he thought they were all agreed that some cleansing measures must be taken in the winter to combat this disease. The question was whether the Board should recommend the Government that its own officers should undertake the work of cleansing as in 1901 and 1902 or whether the Board should allow the Chinese to do it themselves as they had done last winter. Last winter was exceptional as there was a greater dearth of water than one generally met with. That might account for the cleansing not having been so effectual as in the previous winter. In neither 1895 nor 1897 which were mild years was there any general cleansing in the preceding winters.

He thought overcrowding was a more important factor than cleansing.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved that cleansing be carried out by the people themselves under the supervision of the officers of the Board. They should educate the Chinese to do something for themselves.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK expressed himself as in accordance with Mr. Pollock's views.

Mr. HEWETT trusted that the experiment carried out by the Governor in the Western District would be extended to the whole of the town.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN expressed the belief that the Chinese would respond to the call of the Board if they were called upon to cleanse their houses. The best step to take was to enlist their co-operation.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the following committees was appointed to arrange for the work of cleansing to be carried out, district by district:—Messrs. Lau Chu Pak and Fung Wa Chun, Dr. Pearce and Mr. Hewett.

A PUBLIC NUISANCE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

With reference to a question put by Hon. H. E. Pollock relating to an objectionable public convenience in Queen's Road East in front of No. 3 Police Station,

The VICE-PRESIDENT stated that probably the introduction of an extractor fan would effect an improvement.

This course of action was agreed to.

PLAGUE-INFECTED RATS.

The following minute by the M.O.H. re plague-infected rats was laid on the table:—

"At a meeting of the Board held on the 9th April this year it was decided that, during the continuance of the epidemic of plague, it was not advisable to treat rat-holes with carbolic acid or to fill them up with cement. The object was to prevent as much as possible driving rats from infected houses into non-infected ones. Now, however, that the epidemic is over, it is necessary to take steps to rid houses of rats as effectually as possible. The plague inspectors are now engaged in inspecting houses for rat-runs and in seeing notices to fill in rat-runs are complied with. Since the re-arrangement of the rat-catching staff comparatively few rats are as yet being caught, but many more are now being caught alive in houses than formerly, and the percentage of plague-infected rats has gone up. I feel sure, and I think every member of the staff is of the same opinion, that the only way to get the people to help in destroying rats is to avoid disturbing them when a plague rat is found on their premises. I quite agree with the idea that a house in which a plague-infected rat has been found may be as great a source of danger as, if not greater than, a house in which a human case of plague has occurred and that logically we ought to turn out and disinfect every house from which a plague rat has come. It is quite certain, however, that the moment we do this, the people will determine that no more rats shall be caught on their premises. Of course it is open to us to disinfect every house within, say, 100 yards of the space where a plague-infected rat has been picked up in the street, so as to make tolerably sure that we are disinfecting the right house. Disinfection is worse than useless unless properly carried out, and the method which has been adopted here formerly is, I think, inadequate as a preventive measure, while it is extremely irritating to the people. I refer to the washing out of the ground floors only of houses near where a plague rat has been found. At present the inspectors offer disinfection to the tenants where an infected rat has been found, or will give them disinfectants for their own use if they wish. The question of what is to be the policy of the Board in this matter is an important one, and should, I think, be decided very soon by the Board."

The President:—"There can be no doubt that most of the rats caught before August, when a bonus was given for each rat, were introduced to the Colony. The best plan, I think, will be to have the rat-runs treated with carbolic acid and filled in, and for the inspectors to persuade the people to cleanse and disinfect the houses in which plague rats are found."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun:—"I quite agree with the A.M.O.H. that the people would never catch or allow the rats to be caught, even if cages

were put in their houses, lest their houses be upset by the disinfecting gangs. The best policy of the Board is to offer the cleansing to the tenants with disinfectants supplied free of charge. In that case we may hope that the destruction of rats may be done effectually."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—"Past experience does not show that disinfection can successfully prevent infection. But as the M.O.H. advises that it should be kept on, I am in favour of giving permission to the people to carry it out themselves, the Sanitary Board to supply the requisite disinfectants free of charge. If the people are subjected to the same hardship and annoyance as they used to be they cannot be blamed for refusing to help in destroying rats on their premises."

Colonel Webb:—"I think the suggestion of the Hon. P.C.M.O. should be carried out."

Mr. A. Rumjahn:—"The present system of compelling owners of property to fill up rat-runs should be changed. The occupiers ought to be made to do it; thereby the destruction of rats would be carried out more expeditiously."

Mr. Hewett:—"If the suggestion is acted upon someone must see that the 'people' properly disinfect their own premises."

The PRESIDENT said this rat problem seemed to be a very serious one. During last summer they had come to the conclusion that rats were being introduced into the Colony for the sake of the bonus. Accordingly the Board altered their system and employed a much smaller staff thinking they might be able to get more rats out of the houses. They were right in that supposition because more had been got than formerly. The question was what steps should be taken in regard to those houses in which rats were found. Professor Simpson recommended in his memorandum that not only the house in which a plague-infected rat was found but also the three houses on each side should be similarly dealt with. Winter was the time to attack these pests, and the present seemed to them a suitable time to bring this matter up. They might adopt some such plan as this, that in every house in which a plague-infected rat is found the inspector should attend and fill in rat-runs with carbolic acid and give the people the option for a week of cleansing the premises themselves, the Board supplying the necessary disinfectants. If at the end of that time it was found that this had not been done then the Board must take the matter in hand and deal with it themselves. There was another question, and that was the adoption of a system of destruction of rats by producing epidemic amongst them, which was also recommended by Professor Simpson. Dr. Barnett would be able to tell them that that system had been used in London.

Dr. BARNETT stated that such measures were adopted when the Strand was being pulled down and the rats invaded the bar of the Gaiety Theatre to such an extent that the barmaids could hardly stand it (laughter); the rats ate all the food that was left on the counters.

The PRESIDENT suggested that they utilise both methods, recommending the Government to require the Bacteriologist to prepare a certain quantity of cultures of this rat-infecting bacillus for distribution amongst the inspectors; also that the measures he had recommended should be taken with regard to the Chinese either cleansing their houses or the Sanitary Board taking the matter in hand.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked if this bacillus affected rats only?

The PRESIDENT replied that it did not affect either man, or domestic animals.

Mr. HEWETT asked if there would not be a nuisance caused by dead rats lying about?

The PRESIDENT replied that any nuisance of that kind would be slight; the dead carcasses would soon dry up.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded. His concession, he said, was as great as could be possibly made in the matter. If they conceded so much the people ought to meet them and render further action unnecessary.

The motion was agreed to.

THE DEPOSITING OF RUBBISH DURING STORMY WEATHER.

Further correspondence was submitted relative to suggested sites for the depositing of rubbish, etc., during stormy weather.

The D.P.W. intimated that, as he had already stated, he was not aware of any available suitable site in the Western District of the City, with the exception of the recently reclaimed area west of Cadogan Street, Kennedytown. In Kowloon he would suggest sites on the reclaimed areas a little to the south of the Police Station at Yau-mati and to the west of Gillies Avenue at Hung-hom; both of these would be of a purely temporary nature.

Mr. E. A. Hewett:—"A site at the western end of the town is to my mind imperative, and if the Government have no such site available one should be purchased or reclaimed."

The PRESIDENT moved that the Government be recommended to authorise the use of these areas of land, as defined, for this purpose.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

AN APPLICATION.

There was laid on the table further correspondence relative to the application for permission to erect a trough closet on Inland Lot Lot No. 1633.

Mr. HEWETT submitted that it was imperative there be a sufficient, continuous flow of water to keep the pipes of this proposed trough-closet absolutely clear from the house down to the sea, and as there was not a sufficient supply here the Board would be setting a dangerous precedent if they allowed the application. No fixed water-closets should be granted for any house within a very few feet above the level of the sea.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded.

On a division, this motion was defeated by 5 to 3.

The application was granted.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return showed that during the two weeks ended 5th inst. 595 rats were destroyed; of these 8 were found to be infected with plague.

There was no other important business before the meeting.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION IN HONGKONG.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S DECISION.

At the meeting on Monday of the Hongkong Legislative Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.) laid the following correspondence on the table:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1903.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that in November last the Singapore Chamber of Commerce addressed this Chamber, drawing attention to the steps taken by that Chamber with the object of investigating and considering the possibility of arriving at some method by which the fixing of exchange between gold and silver in Singapore and the Straits Settlements might be solved, and asking for this Chamber's views as to the advisability of taking any action in the same direction with regard to the currency of Hongkong.

At a meeting of the Committee specially called to discuss this matter, held on the 23rd December last, it was decided to reply that, although they greatly appreciated the friendly desire for joint action, the Committee regretted that, by reason of the very different position occupied by the two Colonies, they were unable to see their way, whilst China still retains a silver currency, to take any steps which might tend to lead the Government to adopt another standard.

Since the expression of opinion by the Committee, a requisition from five members was received calling for a special general meeting of the members of the Chamber, for the purpose of discussing the question of local currency, and this meeting of members was held on the 18th instant, when the following resolution was carried by a majority.

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable the Straits Currency Commission should extend its enquiries to Hongkong with a view to ascertaining whether reform of the Colony's currency arrangement is advisable."

In this connection, I enclose copies of the following papers:—

1. Published minutes of Committee Meeting held 23rd December, 1902.

2. Notice calling Special General Meeting of Members for 18th February, 1903.

3. Published minutes of Special General Meeting.—I have, &c.,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Hongkong, 23rd March, 1903.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 18th ultimo, I am directed to inform you that a copy of the Resolution therein contained will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in due course.—I have, &c.,

F. H. MAY.

Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

Government House.

Hongkong 2nd April, 1903.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit for your information the enclosed copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposal to fix a rate of Exchange between gold and silver and so relieve trade in this Colony from the difficulties and embarrassments caused by the fluctuations in their relative values. As stated in the letter, a majority of the Chamber have at a recent meeting adopted the following Resolution: "That in the opinion of this Meeting it is desirable the Straits Currency Commission should extend its enquiries to Hongkong with a view to ascertaining whether reform of the Colony's currency arrangements is advisable."

I laid the letter from the Chamber of Commerce with the Resolution therein contained before my Executive Council and was advised by a majority that it would be well to have a Commission appointed to enquire the currency question so far as it affected Hongkong, but that such a Commission should be separate and distinct from that appointed to enquire into the question in Singapore. The Council offered no opinion on the ultimate question as to whether a gold standard should or should not be adopted for Hongkong, but advised that in the event of His Majesty's Government deciding to appoint a Commission, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce should be invited to nominate two gentlemen for appointment as members, one to represent that section of the Chamber which is in favour of the *status quo*, and the other to represent the section which is in favour of adopting a gold standard.

I enclose also for your information copies of the proceedings of the Chamber of Commerce at a Meeting of the Committee held on the 23rd December, 1902, and of a General Meeting of the Chamber held on the 18th February, 1903, at which the Resolution now forwarded was adopted by a majority of 40 to 25.

As it appeared to me that the papers read on that occasion by the gentlemen who proposed the Resolution in opposition to the conclusion formed by the Committee of the Chamber at the Meeting of 23rd December had been carefully prepared, while the time occupied in the discussion was palpably not sufficient to admit of well-considered reply, I communicated with a number of the most important Merchants, Managers of Shipping Companies, and bankers in the Colony requesting their views on the subject. I attach their answers which will show that, among the mercantile men who have the largest stake in the Colony, including British, German and Chinese, there is an almost unanimous feeling against any interference with the present currency so long as the Chinese currency remains what it is.

The arguments put forward in these various statements cover the whole ground from a business point of view, and a glance at the gold value of shares ten years ago and now shows that the gold value of capital then invested has increased very considerably even with the depreciated dollar. But there is another aspect of the question that requires very grave consideration even before a Commission be decided upon, for the appointment of a Commission would at once further affect Exchange. Can this Colony afford to pay the cost of conversion? Assuming a gold reserve, with paper currency and token silver coins, is the paper to be

inconvertible? If not, gold selling sometimes at a premium, our reserve will be demanded for conversion into gold leaf, of which there is enormous consumption in China, and must be replaced, while of the large token coin there will probably be a perennial supply of counterfeit from China that we can only exclude by the establishment of a rigid Customs service and the total change in the character of the port, which has grown and thriven upon its freedom from restrictions. While if the silver rises beyond the token value of the coin then the silver currency will be at once converted into bullion.

These are questions that can be answered in London as well as in Hongkong, and require to be very carefully considered before any step is taken that will disturb present conditions. Whether Hongkong turns to the East or to the West is evident that she will have to meet Exchange fluctuations on one side or the other. At present the double calculation is made by the merchant or commission agent in Hongkong. If we seek to transfer that trouble to the Chinese importer and exporter, will he not prefer to continue to deal in Exchange with his accustomed currency in Chinese ports to which the Exchange Banks will transfer their business, and where he will be met by all the most active merchants and brokers who will perforce be drawn by trade competition from Hongkong? Such an exodus from this port would profoundly affect its prosperity which has grown upon the principle of minimum interference with the freedom of trade and a maximum of convenience for the Chinese traders.—I have, &c.,

H. A. BLAKE.

The Right Honourable,
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

Downing Street,
22nd August, 1903.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 174 of the 2nd April, with its enclosures, on the subject of the currency in Hongkong.

I regret that I have not returned an earlier reply to your despatch, which has, however, been receiving my careful attention. I transmit to you herewith a copy of Resolutions agreed to at a recent Conference between Delegations from the United States, China and Mexico, and Representatives of this country, regarding the monetary systems of silver-using countries and the establishment of a national currency in the Chinese Empire, together with a copy of a Message from the President of the United States which led up to the Conference. The Delegations are now discussing the silver question with Representatives of different Governments in Europe.

It does not appear expedient to discuss further at the present stage the possibility of establishing a gold standard in Hongkong, the difficulties of which are clearly stated in your despatch. It appears to me to be out of the question to entertain the idea of adopting a gold standard of currency for the Colony while China remains a silver standard country, and I do not, therefore, consider that it would be expedient to appoint a Commission to enquire into the subject.—I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor

Sir HENRY A. BLAKE, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

(Enclosure.)

CONFERENCE BETWEEN DELEGATIONS FROM
THE UNITED STATES, CHINA, AND MEXICO,
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Points regarding monetary systems for silver-using countries on which the Conference unanimously agree:—

1. That the adoption in silver-using countries of the gold standard on the basis of a silver coin of unlimited legal tender, but with a fixed gold value, would greatly promote the development of those countries and stimulate the trade between those countries and countries already possessing the gold standard, besides enlarging the investment opportunities of the world.

2. That a national currency for the Chinese Empire, consisting of silver coins which shall be full legal tender throughout the Empire, is urgently desirable.

As soon as practicable, steps should be taken for the establishment in China of a fixed relation between the silver unit and gold.

3. That approximate uniformity in the coinage ratio between gold and the silver coins of such countries as may hereafter adopt a gold standard is desirable.

4. That, if there are further serious changes in the price of silver bullion, it is desirable that the coinage ratio between gold and the silver coins of those silver-using countries which may hereafter adopt a gold standard should be fixed at about 32 to 1.

5. That fluctuations in the price of silver bullion would, to some extent, be prevented by reasonable regularity in the purchases of silver required by each Government for actual coinage purposes, and that such regularity is desirable, and might be adopted, as far as possible, in each country, subject to its monetary policy and convenience.

Great Britain:	China:
Jas. L. Mackay.	Holliday Macartney.
Ewen Cameron.	Ivan Chen.
Robert Chalmers.	
W. Blain.	
George W. Johnson.	
United States:	Mexico:
H. H. Hanna.	Enrique C. Creel.
Charles A. Conant.	Luis Canacho.
Jeremiah W. Jenks.	El Meade.
Technical Counsellor:	
	Edward Brush.

London, 18th June, 1903.

A RUSSIAN VIEW OF COREAN AFFAIRS.

[FROM OUR JAPAN CORRESPONDENT.]

It is well known that the Japanese Press is at present strongly urging their Government to interfere in Corea. In Russian circles in Port Arthur this recommendation is naturally viewed with unfriendly eyes. The *Novi Krai* of recent date quoted the remarks on this subject of the *Kokumin*, which compared Corea to a thatched house that was in danger of taking fire at any moment owing to the carelessness of its inmates, and that accordingly required to be looked after by the neighbours, who would suffer from the effect of such a fire. All this pother in the Japanese Press arose, according to the local paper, from the simple fact that some Russians rented a piece of land at Yong-ampho on the Yalu. "But before we enter on this question, we should like to indicate the rôle that Japan has played up to the present in Corea. Her first object was to get hold of the rising generation, and with that end in view she established all over Corea a network of schools and taught of course in these schools a Japanese programme of studies. It must be admitted that she carried out this vast scheme with exemplary perseverance. After that she calmly proceeded to Japanese two important Corean ports, Chemulpo and Fusan. These places she has made practically Japanese. Japanese built the Seoul-Chemulpo railway, and are at present building the Seoul-Fusan railway. Fusan will be the most southerly point of this railway system, which will be open in about eighteen months. Thousands of Coreans are now working on this line under the direction of Japanese; quays are being constructed and embankments built so that ships will be able to unload right into the railway waggons without the cargo going through any intermediary stage. Japanese merchants have bought up the best portions of the land adjoining the railway line and close to the railway station, which is situated in the centre of the port. A Japanese timber-yard of considerable dimensions has already been constructed in the same vicinity. Everywhere in this Japanese quarter there is hurry and animation, long, broad streets have already been marked out by lines of stone foundations; and at the present moment one cannot buy a piece of land to build a private house or a shop on—all is in the hands of Japanese. From time to time the Corean Emperor wakes up and spasmodically issues edicts prohibiting the sale of land to foreigners, but, as seems to be the rule in that strange land, these edicts are not obeyed, and the sale of land to Japanese goes on as briskly as if they had never been issued. In Seoul the Japanese own about one-third of the

immovable property in the town, in Chemulpo almost half. In other towns they also own a large proportion of the property.

THE IMPECUNIOUS COREAN.

"The Corean is generally an impecunious individual and always, like Mr. Micawber, waiting for something to turn up. The Japanese money-lender turns up as a rule and lends the Corean money on the security of his house or land, with the result that in a very short time the hapless Corean finds himself bundled out of his property which the Japanese at once appropriates and proceeds to work to the greatest advantage.

PRACTICAL MASTERS OF COREA.

"Thus the Japanese are fast making themselves practical masters of Corea from the economic as well as from the educational point of view. As soon as an opportunity presents itself Corea will become Japanese in name as it is already Japanese in reality. That that opportunity may come quickly is the ardent wish of every Japanese.

THE YONG-AMPHO AFFAIR.

"To return to the Yong-ampho question, the Japanese Press, both in the English and Japanese languages, has inaugurated a campaign against us on the Yong-ampho question. The leasing by some Russians of those few acres of land in the Corean village in question is represented as an attempt on the sovereign rights of Corea, and as a menace to Japanese interests in that country—nay, it is even represented as a menace to the independence not only of Corea but even of Japan. But these heated fancies of the Japanese do not, or should not, obscure the fact that the question of Yong-ampho is purely of a commercial nature. The agreement regarding this lease was concluded as far back as 1896, but conditions were not propitious at that time for carrying out the necessary work. At the present moment a commercial company has taken up this concession and is working it. Where, then, is the reason for accusing Russia of aggressive actions? Are there not tens of thousands of Japanese workmen in Corea, beginning at Fusan and going on to Gensan, and is this onward movement of Japan in the Peninsula regarded by the entire Japanese Press as anything but strictly legal? Is it regarded as a menace to the interests of other Powers in Corea or to the interests of Corea herself? But when some Russian timber-merchants start a modest undertaking in northern Corea, the whole Press of Japan jumps to its feet and asserts that this is a case of Russian aggression. They think, therefore, that the time has come for Japan to interfere in hopeless and helpless Corea." (The italics are the *Novi Krai*'s).

In another issue the *Novi Krai* translates a long article from the *Japan Mail* on the Corean question. The article is to the effect that Japan's patience is exhausted by Russia's latest aggressive move in Corea. "As regards all these mournful lamentations," says the *Novi Krai*, "we must say that every impartial observer can see that Russia's interests in northern Corea are of a peaceful nature. We may also say that no Chauvinist Japanese clique can shake Russia's determination peacefully but firmly to introduce the blessings of civilisation among neighbouring nations, acting on the principles of justice and mutual esteem."

According to the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 29th ult., considerable anxiety is felt in reference to the British Steamer *Finsbury*, 1,230 tons net, built at Newcastle in 1880, which left Kobe for Yokohama on the 21st ult., and has not since been heard of. She probably ran into a typhoon soon after leaving Kobe. She had 500 cases of dynamite on board, besides other cargo. H.M.S. *Espergle* was to leave Kobe on the 29th to look for the *Finsbury*.

The *Japan Mail* of the 23rd ult. states that the only terms in the new Russian proposals that China has accepted are comparatively unimportant ones; but the *Nichi Nichi* explains that the true inwardness of the matter is that Count Cassini promised that Russia should pay the Chinese Court five million taels when the Chinese Eastern Railway was finished. China has been pressing for the money, and Mr. Lessar says that China must accept the new Russian proposals first.

HONGKONG BRANCH OF THE SANITARY INSTITUTE.

In the City Hall on Tuesday night a large number of the members of the Sanitary Department, local architects, and persons interested in sanitary matters assembled, the occasion being the formation in Hongkong of a branch of the Sanitary Institute. Amongst those present were H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., Sir John Kane, H.M. H.E. Pollock, K.C., Hon. Gershom Stewart, Colonel Webb, R.A.M.C., Drs. Drew, R.N., Atkinson, Pearse, Barnett, Macfarlane, and Keyt; Messrs. Hewett, Ough, A. G. Wood, and G. A. Woodcock.

H.E. the GOVERNOR, in his introductory remarks, said that every gentleman in the room would understand how important was the series of lectures to be delivered, between now and the 16th February, to all those in Hongkong who took an interest in the sanitary condition of this great city; but as he did not wish to anticipate anything the lecturer might say he would ask Dr. Atkinson to deliver his lecture.

The Hon. Dr. ATKINSON said—Your Excellency, and Gentlemen,—I am sure I am voicing the opinions of all present when I say how much we appreciate your kindness in coming to-night, Sir, to open this the first session of the Hongkong Branch of the Sanitary Institute. The Sanitary Institute of Great Britain has been established since 1876. Its objects are to promote the advancement of sanitary science in all or any of its branches, and the diffusion of knowledge relating thereto. The council is composed not only of medical officers of health and physicians but also of eminent architects and engineers. The work of the Institute began with the examination of sanitary inspectors, but it is now something more than that; there is a permanent museum, the Parkes Museum in Margaret Street, London, which contains a great variety of appliances and apparatus of the most approved forms, relating to health and domestic comfort: there is a large library of sanitary literature, which contains, in addition to standard works on sanitary science, a collection of reports of medical officers of health over the whole country and a reading room supplied with the principal sanitary periodicals both home and foreign; it holds congresses and conferences by means of which many important practical conclusions have been arrived at. This society, although founded in London, is not only English, or British, but claims to be imperial in the true sense of the word. Branches have already been formed in Australia, South Africa, and Canada, and I believe one has been, or is shortly to be, established in India. I mention this to show that the ambition of the society was not confined in its scope. Hygiene is of world-wide importance, and situated as we are on the borders of one of the most ancient civilisations of the world, how great are our opportunities and responsibilities in this respect. It is only within the life time of this Colony that Sanitary Science has made for itself a name even in England—amongst its pioneers I would mention Farr, Simon, Parkes, and the elder Chadwick. To the Chinese, sanitation is an unknown name, and who knows what a leaving influence this small society may ultimately effect on that Empire. This local branch owes its inception to one of the Senior Sanitary Inspectors who were obtained from England in 1902. I refer to Mr. Carter, who is, I understand, the only member of the Institute East of Suez, and I regret to say he is unable to be here to-night owing to an attack of dengue. He it was who first suggested the idea of the establishment of a branch of the Institute in Hongkong, and last winter lectures were delivered by Drs. Clark, Pearse and Hunter, and Messrs Gibson and Browne in order to see whether there was any demand for such a course. The attendance at these lectures was very encouraging, and before Dr. Clark left for home on leave, he addressed the Home Institute in order to ascertain whether they were willing to establish a branch here. A favourable reply was received, and then the subject was broached by Dr. Pearse and myself to the Sanitary Board. The members heartily approved of it, and with the consent of the Government, a semi-public meeting of

those interested was held at the Sanitary Board offices, and offers of support were received, not only from several of the local architects and engineers, but also from some of the military officers. It was at that meeting decided to establish a local branch in Hongkong, and a small committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for a course of lectures in the coming winter. We were forunate in obtaining the services of Dr. Burnett, one of the assistant Medical Officers of Health, as secretary. The use of a suitable lecture-room has been obtained at Queen's College, and lectures are to be given twice a week on Tuesday and Friday evenings, at nine o'clock. At the end of the session two examinations will be held, one in practical sanitary science and the other for inspectors of nuisances. The former is for persons who have no intention of becoming sanitary officers, but who desire to obtain a certificate from the Institute indicating their knowledge of sanitary science. This, although not including many technical subjects which an inspector is required to know, goes beyond the scope of the inspectors' examination, as far as relates to practical sanitation. The examination is arranged so as to be suitable to foremen of works, builders, and those engaged in allied trades and others requiring a thorough knowledge of practical sanitary science. Every candidate is required to furnish the Board of Examiners with satisfactory testimonials of recent date as to age and personal character. Applications for examination must be made in a proper form and must be sent to the office of the Institute fourteen days before the date of the examination at which the candidate wishes to present himself. The fee payable for the examination is \$35, which must be paid to the secretary. The examination in practical sanitary science occupies two days; on the first day it consists of written papers only. There are two papers, two hours being allowed for each, and on the second day the examination is *viva voce*. A certificate will be granted to each successful candidate. A certificate is not granted to any candidate under 21 years of age. The syllabus for subjects includes:—Elementary physics and chemistry in so far as they apply to sanitary science. The principles of hydraulics and hydrostatics, pneumatics and heat and the composition and properties of air and water, etc., including the principles involved in the various methods of treating sewage. Local Conditions:—Meteorology—Soil and subsoil and its drainage. Sanitary precautions as to healthiness of site, &c. Water:—Sources of supply—Mains, pipes, fittings and storage. Sources of contamination and protective precautions. Filtration.—Materials and Constructions:—General description of materials used in construction, viz. timber, metals, concrete, stones, bricks, and tiles, cement, mortars, materials for covering roofs, coverings for gables, gutters, &c. Fire-proof construction. Air, lighting and warming:—Principles of ventilation. Air-space and quantity required. Overcrowding surface and in buildings. Size of windows. Ventilation of public buildings, hospitals, schools, dwelling and houses. Drainage, Sewage, and sanitary appliances:—The planning and construction of drains and sewers. Advantages and disadvantages of various sanitary appliances. Drain-testing and inspection of drainage-work. The various methods of dealing with house-sewage and house-refuse. Disposal of sewage and refuse. A more detailed list will be found in the printed syllabus. It is essential that candidates should possess a practical as well as a theoretical acquaintance with the subject. With regard to the examination for sanitary inspectors the same conditions are to be complied with as in the former examination. The subjects for examination are:—Elementary physics and chemistry in relation to water, soil, air and ventilation. Elementary statistical methods:—Hygiene of communities including prevention and abatement of nuisances, sanitary defects in and about buildings and their remedies. Water supplies.—Drainage. Refuse-removal and disposal, offensive trades, disinfection. Food-inspection, the characters of good and bad food. The regulations affecting persons suffering, or recovering from infectious diseases and some knowledge of such diseases. Principles of ventilation, measurement of cubic space, &c. A knowledge of the general duties of the

office and methods of keeping the necessary books, writing and spelling. The provisions of the Public Health Ordinance and the bye-laws made thereunder, a knowledge of the sale of Food and Drugs Ordinances. Every candidate who passes the examination will receive a certificate to that effect qualifying him for appointment as sanitary inspector. The examinations are intended to make inspectors of nuisances, or those desirous of becoming such, or of obtaining the certificate of the Institution, to prove their competence by examination. Many local boards and corporations require candidates, when making application for appointments, to produce a certificate of this kind, and I am sure that the possession of such a certificate would considerably influence the Sanitary Board in its recommendation for the promotion of inspectors from one class to another. I may mention that we have started the nucleus of a library and a reading-room at the district offices in the Central District, 56, Hollywood Road. We hope in time to have a good reference library there. The first lecture will be delivered by Mr. Browne on Friday evening next in No. XI room, Queen's College, to commence at 9 p.m., the subject being Mechanical Physics.

HIS EXCELLENCY, in inviting observations from those present, said it was perfectly clear it would be hard to exaggerate the importance of the subject that had been brought before them. At the termination of the proceedings it would be well if they looked at some of the conditions as seen in the models before them; it would be found that they were very pressing indeed and called for amelioration. For instance, they could see a representation of a part of Hongkong as it existed to-day, while on the other hand was a model of a most ingenious suggestion for its improvement. Then there was a model of a proposal placed before him, in connection with the Public Health Bill, to the effect that lateral windows could be secured by taking away every third house. It seemed a beautiful idea on paper, but when the matter was looked into they found that every third house could not be removed; why this would not be done—he left it to the architects to say. A large number of men belonging to the most important sanitary department would be engaged in carrying out the instructions of the Sanitary Board and the ideas embodied in the far-reaching Public Health Bill. When one looked at the heap of lectures to be delivered and saw the number of subjects it was proposed to deal with he confessed he was sorry he would not be in a position to attend many of them. He remarked the observation of Dr. Atkinson that to Chinese sanitation was an unknown name, and he wondered whether they had done much better in Hongkong than the natives had on the other side of the water. His own view was—he was speaking as a layman—that, in considering sanitation, they over-estimated to a certain extent the danger of bad smells. They concluded it was overdone, and in many cases it was only a blank cartridge. They would remember that they had a great drain on this side of the harbour, and it was a most singular thing that in old Kowloon, about which he need scarcely say anything, when they experienced most awful smells, it was quite free from plague. It was quite possible it would be found that drains had their dangers as well as their advantages. In Rio de Janeiro, after the drainage had been established, typhoid increased and the city became very much worse. No doubt if they could get perfect drainage it would be a very good thing. All such matters would come before them, and he had no doubt that their discussions would be of great benefit, and the knowledge derived would be invaluable to the community of Hongkong. He concluded by wishing the Hongkong branch of the Institute every success in the future.

HIS EXCELLENCY then asked a gentleman to volunteer to lecture on soils suitable for building purposes, on the 27th November.

Mr. B. BROTHERTON HARKER regretted he could not undertake the lecture, as he had one in course of preparation. But on it being pointed out that he had nearly seven weeks before him he said he would have much pleasure in undertaking the lecture.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT said he had been asked by the President of the Sanitary Board to propose a vote of thanks to His Excellency for kindly

presiding at the opening lecture of the Hongkong branch of the Sanitary Institute which they were quite sure would result in very great good to the Colony. He need scarcely say that he undertook to do so with very great pleasure, and he felt sure the vote would be most cordially endorsed by all present. The interest which His Excellency had always shown in everything relating to the well-being of the Colony during the tenure of his office in Hongkong, and more particularly in matters relating to sanitation and the health of the city, were well known to most of them. During last summer they had a striking example of it when His Excellency brought forward a most valuable scheme in sanitary reform, which he was sure must result in the greatest possible good. He reminded them that it was not a small undertaking on the part of Sir Henry, in the heat of the summer, when his time was fully occupied in other matters, to undertake the work, and he felt certain they would also thank him for his kindly interest in the new movement resulting in the inauguration of the Sanitary Institute in Hongkong. He was sure he was voicing not only the feelings of the Sanitary Board, but of the whole sanitary staff and those interested in the movement, when he said they expressed their great regret that, owing to his premature departure from the Colony, His Excellency would not have the satisfaction of seeing for himself the very great good which must result from the lectures. He trusted he might further be permitted, on the part of the sanitary department gathered together that evening—the last occasion on which they would have the opportunity of meeting His Excellency—to express to him and to Lady Blake the best wishes for their continued welfare, prosperity and well-being in their new home in Colombo.

HIS EXCELLENCY said he thanked them very much for the kindness with which they had received the vote of thanks, and Mr. Hewett for his kind and generous remarks concerning Lady Blake and himself. He earnestly hoped that the work which had been begun, and into which the Sanitary Board had flung itself with so much energy and a determination to do all that within them laid to secure the health of the Colony, would be successful. He looked forward to the day when the scourge which had been the bane of Hongkong for so many years might pass away, and he was sure that everybody connected with the sanitary department realised the enormous responsibility that rested upon it and would act up to those responsibilities in securing the health of the Colony. He again thanked them for their good wishes and was sure they were reciprocated by his wife as they were by himself. Before concluding, he asked them to join with him in a cordial vote of thanks to the Hon. Dr. Atkinson who had read his paper that evening. Dr. Atkinson took the keenest interest in the matter, and no one knew more than himself how prepared he was to receive any kind of hint bearing upon sanitary matters. He was prepared to look into them. He was not tied and bound by practice and red-tape, or anything else, but did the work of the Colony in endeavouring to release it from the incubus that has been upon it for so long.

The Hon. Dr. ATKINSON thanked His Excellency for his kind remarks and the meeting then dispersed.

The Shantung Railway Company opened for regular traffic, on the 22nd ult., another forty kilometres of road from Tschotien to Tschontsun, in which distance is included the largest bridge on the whole road, the Tschu bridge, four hundred and forty metres in length. It is hoped, since the work is progressing favourably, that Tsinanfu will be reached by rail before the end of the year.

An action is proceeding in the Tokyo Courts in which the Russo-Chinese Bank, against a former Chinese compradore, seeks to recover Yen 175,971, which was advanced by the Bank to Japanese firms under the alleged guarantee of the defendant. The defendant denies his liability and counter-claims for Yen 535,407, the value of certain Shanghai property which, he alleges, was pledged to the Bank as personal security and was subsequently disposed of by the Bank.

PROPOSED CHURCH FOR KOWLOON.

A meeting of Kowloon residents, convened by the Bishop of Victoria, was held on Thursday night at the Seamen's Institute, to discuss a proposal to erect a church for English-speaking residents in the Kowloon district. The Bishop, who presided over an attendance of about twenty-five ladies and gentlemen, announced that a gentleman, whose name he was not yet at liberty to mention, had offered a sum of \$35,000 to erect a church in Kowloon, and a request had been made to the Government to grant for this purpose a site which had already been selected. Pending the receipt of an answer a plan was being formulated for the due security of the Church property and the government of the Church, should it be, as they hoped, erected and his lordship said that although the matter was not quite ripe for discussion he had thought it desirable to call a meeting of Kowloon residents, for the purpose of formally acquainting them with what was taking place. The Bishop read a draft of the constitution which had been prepared for consideration and invited suggestions or criticisms of the proposals contained therein.

It is contemplated that the church shall have a chaplain specially appointed to it, but it is also hoped that the Naval chaplain will, as heretofore, voluntarily assist in the Church work of the district. In consideration of a grant by the Cathedral Church body in aid of the stipend of the chaplain of the new church it is expected that he will assist occasionally in the services of the Cathedral and in the duties of chaplain at the gaol and hospital. It is proposed to call the church St. James's.

The Rev. F. T. Johnson, chaplain of the Cathedral, cordially welcomed the scheme.

No suggestions being forthcoming at the meeting, his lordship invited written suggestions or criticisms of the scheme, if possible, before Monday next, when it will be taken into consideration.

DEPARTURE OF THE INTERPORT CRICKET TEAM.

On the 7th inst. at 11.30 a.m. a considerable number of cricketers and others assembled on Blake Pier to witness the departure of the cricket team which is to represent this Colony against Shanghai next week. The C.P.R. Co.'s launch was waiting at the Pier and took off the players and a few friends to the s.s. *Tartar*; and as she steamed off three cheers and a tiger were given by those on the Pier, heartily responded to by the party on the launch. The whole of the team, comprising Messrs. R. Hancock (Capt.), H. Arthur, R. E. O. Bird, C. R. S. Cooper, J. T. Dixon, H. Hancock, W. F. Lumsden, T. E. Pearce, T. W. Smith, W. C. D. Turner, A. G. Ward, and A. R. Lowe (twelfth man), got off about 11.45. On board the *Tartar* another party from Sir Paul Chater's launch *Christine* was there to help in the send-off. On arrival on the steamer refreshments were served to the company, when Mr. R. Hancock took the opportunity of thanking Mr. E. W. Mitchell, to whose energy and perseverance he attributed the fact that Hongkong was able to send a team up to Shanghai—a team which, he was certain, would do its very utmost to bring the spoils back to Hongkong. Mr. Mitchell in response said that his work had been entirely a labour of love and he wished the team the very best of luck. The toast of "Success to Hongkong" was then drunk. The *Tartar* left not long after noon, the H.K.C.C. flag being hoisted at the last moment amid much cheering.

The *Tartar* should reach Shanghai on Saturday afternoon, and the match will commence on Tuesday, the 13th inst. and will be played to a finish. It is also contemplated to have an inter-port lawn tennis match, the brothers Hancock representing Hongkong.

Mr. A. Richter, who was charged with infringement of the Fortification Regulations, was sentenced to a fine of 25 yen in the criminal section of the Yokohama District Court on the 23rd ult.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A very useful shrub which is just beginning to flower is *Burleria Cristata*, a native of Hongkong, and cultivated generally in the East Indies. It was introduced into cultivation in England more than a hundred years ago. It makes a nice bush in Hongkong, growing to a height of 4 or 5 ft. There are several varieties, and four of these may be found in the gardens. The flowers of the type are mauve in colour, and one variety has pure white flowers. A third is intermediate, having variegated white and mauve flowers, a fourth variety, as well as the variegated form, originated in the gardens, and is a pleasing shade of pink in colour. All the varieties are growing in the shrubbery just above the lower entrance to the new garden, in Albany Road, but some of them are not in flower yet. The flowers are funnel-shaped, and are produced freely at the ends of the branches, but they do not last long in perfection.

There are many good things amongst the Ipomoeas, and *Ipomoea Horsfallii* is certainly one of them. A fine plant is growing at the east end of the rose-bed terrace in the old garden, trained on a wire fence. A smaller specimen may be seen at the west end of the rose-bed in the new garden trained in a similar manner. The flowers are purplish-red, campanulate in shape, 1½ to 2 inches long, with the limb slightly reflected. The plant is figured in the *Botanical Magazine* for 1835, where Sir William Hooker states it was introduced from seeds received by a Mr. Chas. Horsfall, either from Africa or from the East Indies. Dr. Maxwell L. Masters, F. R. S., in the *Gardener's Chronicle* for 1885 challenges this remark, and further states he had positive evidence in the shape of wild specimens from Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Jamaica, that the plant was a native of that island. In the *Index Kewensis* published in 1893, the habitat of the plant is given as the East Indies, while in the list of *Tender Dicotyledons*, published by the Royal Gardens, Kew, in 1899, it is said to be a native of the West Indies. Anyway it is a plant well worth growing. The original specimen in the gardens was received in a warden case from the Botanic Gardens, Mauritius, some years ago.

Antigonon leptopus, a native of South America and belonging to the buckwheat family, is another showy creeper at this time of the year. The plant should be grown in the sun and given plenty of room, and when this is the case the flowers are produced in great numbers. The long trailing masses of pink flowers, when out, are very suitable for arranging in vases. There are two plants at the east end of the lower terrace in the old garden, and several others growing on a fence above the plant houses.

No rain has been yet registered this month.

NEW TERRITORY NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

PEANUTS.

Peanuts are now being raised. The yield is not so good as expected, owing to the excessive rain of last month.

MANSLAUGHTER.

The Ping-shan police are engaged in investigating a case which occurred in that district last month. A woman giving birth to a child was so maltreated at the hands of the ignorant women attending her that she died. Several arrests have been made, and the parties implicated will be charged with manslaughter.

POLICE.

Probably owing to the prevalence of crime in Hongkong at present, the strength at some of the new Territory stations has been numerically weakened. The Government may find it is a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, as the districts in the New Territory are already too large for the few police in each to supervise properly. It seems that some districts contain over 50 villages, yet seven or eight men are supposed to maintain order in all and prevent robbers from raiding. Prodigious!

ROADS.

Now that the dry weather is approaching,

the Government might do well to repair, or cause to be repaired, some of the roads in the interior and on the west side of the New Territory. The roads around Santin, Sheungshui and Patheung, are in a very bad condition.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

Canton, 5th October.

THE VICEROY IN SHAMEN.

On Saturday afternoon, the 3rd inst., His Excellency the Viceroy Shun Chun-hün came to Shamen to make official calls upon the Consuls and the Commissioner of Customs, accompanied by the usual retinue, flag and tablet-bearers, cavalry, etc., as well as by a detachment of foreign-drilled troops, with a band playing a march all the way with cornets and drums, which was quite a new and surprising spectacle to the Chinese in the city. The Shamen soldiers, under the command of Capt. Yeang, formed a guard of honour in a long line to receive him. On His Excellency leaving the Consulate some amateurs were observed taking snap-shots.

BANDITS.

In Tai Lung Tung, Sun Ning district next to Sun Ui, there were five to six hundred robbers against whom the Viceroy sent soldiers, but they outnumbered and defeated the soldiers, some of the latter being killed and others wounded. Fortunately the villagers turned out in a large mass and forced the robbers to retreat. The gentry of the district have petitioned the Viceroy for reinforcements.

CHUN KING-WA.

Chun King-wa, Magistrate of the district of Kwai Yui, Kwangai, who recently killed the Viceroy's emissary, Luk Kin, and the two rebel officers sent to arrange terms of peace with the Viceroy, as was reported about two months ago, is now in Macao, dressed in European style, with his queue cut off. A reward of three thousand dollars is offered for his apprehension. His brother, who was a military officer in command of a battalion of soldiers in Canton, has also fled with his family, for fear of the wrath of the Viceroy.

Canton, 7th October.

THE MOON FEAST.

On Monday the Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated, and the day was a holiday for all classes in Canton. This festival is also called the Moon Feast, and there is a pretty story in connection with it.

More than 4000 years ago there dwelt in the realms of Yao one Hao I, whose skill with the bow earned him the name of the Archer Lord. This great chief was married to a lady called Ch'ang Ngo, who seems to have been of an inquisitive disposition. Her husband, among other accomplishments, excelled in the art of making cakes which possessed the peculiar property of conferring immortality on all who ate of them. As he presumably did not feel quite capable of sharing more than a mortal life with Ch'ang Ngo, he kept these cakes hidden. One day, however, when he was absent, the lady discovered their hiding-place. As she was in the act of eating one, she heard the footsteps of her returning husband; who, in fact, caught her in the act. She fled, pursued by her irate lord. Unable to escape in any other way, she finally decided to fly to the moon, and there she at length found safety, although Hao I let fly his bolts after her.

The Cantonese assemble on their roofs and on the walls to worship the moon, and eat pumelos, boiled taro, and moon-cakes, these last commemorating Hao I's cakes. There are no moon temples, and the worship is very informal; but no doubt some of the worshippers hope, with San Toy, that the moon will "drop a gift from her fairy balloon." Altogether it is a pretty and harmless custom.

THE VICEROY'S RETURN.

The city is restored to tranquillity since the return of the Viceroy. His Excellency appeared in great state on Saturday, when he called on the Consular body. His retinue showed to advantage, and was much admired by large crowds in the city. There is great joy expressed at his return by the merchants, and a sense of security prevails, except among the officials.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 28th September.

REBELS ACTIVE.

The latest news received from Yamchow, as might have been anticipated, is far from reassuring. I learn on reliable authority that on the 21st instant the market towns of Wong Ok Tun and Siu Tung were attacked by the so-called rebels. In Wong Ok Tun the rebels satisfied themselves with ransacking the shops and residences in the principal business streets and then decamped, but in Siu Tung they made a clean sweep of the whole town, excepting only the pawn-shops, the inmates of which offered a strong resistance; and also these establishments, as a rule, are less accessible to intruders.

Siu Tung is an important market town, about ninety li from Yamchow, and Wong Ok Tun, also a market town of no less importance, is almost within sight of Yamchow, being only distant some forty li from Yamchow. That the rebels are getting near and nearer all the time is evident from recent events, notwithstanding the arrival of 1,500 troops at Yamchow sent from Kwangsi by land as reinforcements to the garrison.

In Siu Tung the rebels set fire to a few shops before they retired, as on several former occasions. They also kidnapped from amongst the wealthiest residents about forty women and children, who will probably be detained for ransom.

At both towns the soldiery, in their feeble attempt to resist the attack, lost a few men.

PORT ARTHUR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Port Arthur, 11th (24th) September.

GENERAL AKIYAMA'S VISIT.

On the 29th August (Russian calendar), according to a recent issue of the *Dalny Vostok* of Vladivostok, General Akiyama, of the Japanese army, arrived in Vladivostok by the *Ise Maru* in company with his adjutant Oba. The General was very warmly welcomed at the waterside by a number of officers belonging to the Russian General Staff. The distinguished visitor proceeded from his ship to the rooms that had been thoughtfully provided for him in the Garrison Club, near the Railway station. The object of his visit is supposed to be in connection with the manoeuvres of the Russian troops near Nikolake-Ussuri. General Akiyama will be present at these manoeuvres and will leave for Japan when they have come to an end.

AN UNFORTUNATE CONTRATEMP.

On the same ship that brought General Akiyama came a Japanese tailor named Okamoto and other Japanese, whose names are not known to me. An inspection of these gentlemen and their effects at the Custom House revealed the fact that they had secreted a quantity of silk under their clothes, the silk being wrapped around their bodies. They were fined.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

CHANGES IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

Manila, 29th September.

The port of Aparri, in the Aparri Collection District, was discontinued as a port of entry on September 24th and the ports of Bongao, Cape Melville, Balabao Island, and Puerto Princesa were created ports of entry. The same act which closed and opened these ports vested the Insular Collector of Customs with the power to close any or all of the above mentioned ports for a period not to exceed six months, and to withdraw all or any of the employees of the established custom houses, provided that notice of such closing shall be posted at the office of the collector of the port to be closed at least forty days before the date fixed for closing the port; however, during the time that any of the above mentioned ports may thus be closed they shall be held as coast-wise ports, and the importation of merchandise into them shall subject both vessels and cargo to forfeiture and seizure. The port of Aparri will be retained as an open port to the Philippine coast-wise trade.

IMPROVEMENTS TO AID IMPORTERS.

The Commission has appropriated the sum of 39,000 pesos, Philippine currency, for the purchase and operation of the arrastre plant for unloading and delivering imported merchandise at the Manila Custom House. For the past four years this privilege of arrastre or the taking of the merchandise and all imported stuffs from the cascos and lighters in the river, landing the same and placing it within the customs godowns, was in the hands of Carman & Co. This company found Manila with the most antiquated facilities for unloading goods at the custom house, and, as soon as the privilege of arrastre was obtained, it imported powerful cranes and unloading derricks and laid a small steam railroad, so that the goods could be easily taken out of the lorches and lighters and rolled into the godowns of the custom house. However, as is bound to happen whenever one man or firm has a monopoly or a special privilege denied to others, there were numerous complaints, some claiming that Carman & Co. favoured its own lighters and unloaded them promptly while the other firms were kept waiting and were forced to pay demurrage. Whatever may be the facts, the unloading facilities proved of great value in the past, and now the civil government has decided to take over all this work and place it under the charge of the custom-house, instituting a regular system of checks so that each lighter will be unloaded in its turn, which will be determined by the time of its arrival at the custom-house wharf. Additional derricks of the latest pattern will be installed, the railroad will be improved, and every means will be used to facilitate the progress of trade. The system will not be operated for Government profit, and it is proposed to charge the importers only the bare running expenses of the plant and the hire of the employees devoted to its operation. It is believed that when the new scheme is completed the passage of goods from the river into the custom-house godowns will be accomplished in very much less time than at present. The merchants have naturally accepted the innovation with much pleasure. The 39,000 pesos appropriated by the Commission will be used in purchasing the plant of Carman & Co.

THE GOVERNMENT AND VAGRANTS.

A large increase in the number of worthless characters and vagrants has caused the Government to take unusual measures in the hope of getting rid of this undesirable class. Sooner or later the majority of these men take up their abodes in Manila, and through the vigilance of the police their residence in this city is usually of short duration. As a consequence the jails contain a large number of men, some of them formerly soldiers and sailors who bore good reputations, but who have remained in the Islands unable or unwilling to obtain work and support themselves. Several Spaniards are in the same category. In order to rid the country of these people the Government has authorised the courts to suspend sentence upon convicted vagrants, conditional upon the convict leaving the Philippine Islands and not returning for a period of not more than ten years. In cases affecting Americans, the courts may order the removal of the convict to the penitentiary in the City of Manila, there to remain in custody until he can be placed upon a steamer returning to the United States.

SZECHUEN.

Tachienlu, 28th August.

AN INTERESTING MONARCH.

The Tibetan king now ruling over this section of Tibet, who has a royal palace here in the city, has an interesting history. His older brother, who preceded him in power, wanted him to become a Lama, but when he refused to do so, he reduced him to a state of poverty bordering on beggary. When the old king died a few years ago he left no son to become heir to the throne, but an adopted son. The king's friends tried to put this adopted son on the throne, but the Chinese magistrate here, whose power exceeds that of the Tibetan monarch, decided against the adopted son and in favour of the late king's younger brother; so from a state of beggary he ascended the throne. The proper amount which it is necessary to pay over to the Chinese Government was loaned him by some foreign friends.

here in the city. These same foreign friends have lavished on him numerous expensive presents which are much in evidence in the king's private quarters. The presents are not marked "made in England," or "made in America." While he was in a state of destitution, it seems that the Tibetan priests ignored him and refused to give some help which they should have given him. Now that he is their king, the scales are turned, and he is showing his resentment toward them for their conduct toward him when he was destitute, by ordering a large number of them to leave the largest lamasery in the city in a certain number of days. This, of course, is causing much excitement among the lamas, not so much because they have been ordered to leave their temple, as because of what they fear the king will do next against them. This is the only section of Tibet where the king's authority exceeds that of the lamas.

A MILITARY INVASION.

The latest report from Chêngtu is, that a force of three thousand soldiers, regulars, are on their way in to Tachienlu, and that they are to proceed towards the interior of Tibet. No one seems to know what the trouble is, but there seems to be something seriously wrong between the two countries.

A SET-BACK TO MINING.

The magistrate is getting ready to leave for Luchow. During his stay here, of thirteen years, he has taken an interest in gold-mining. Some mines about twenty miles from the city have been opened and worked with partial success. Two thousand or more miners are now engaged at the mines and are dependent on the employment they get there for a living. Now that the magistrate is going away he proposes to close the mines before he leaves. The mines are on the Tibetan king's land, and he has not been getting anything out of them, so that he wants them closed too. Therefore the king has united with the magistrate in ordering the mines to be closed. They have given the operators ten days to close up the mines and for the miners to get out. If the mines are not closed in that time the king is going to send one hundred, and the magistrate fifty soldiers into the mines to drive the miners out. It means that many of the investors will lose their capital and thousands of miners will be deprived of their occupation. Such is the fate of enterprises controlled by the official class in China.—N.C. Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CAINE ROAD TERRORS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 5th October.

SIR,—A few weeks ago a letter appeared in your columns re ferocious dogs in Caine Road. Subsequently (last week) the owner was fined \$10 at the Police Court, and promised to take better care of the dogs. On Friday last the same dogs attacked a Chinaman in the same manner that they did other persons previously. Now, when is this going to stop? You will see in Caine Road a number of children and amshs, and if these dogs are not going to be kept under control the inhabitants of the locality will find some morning a mournful cortege arriving at their doors with their children either worried or scared to death. It is time that these dogs were destroyed.—Yours, etc.,

STONEWALL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 6th October.

SIR,—The sooner "Stonewall" comes from behind his wall and suggests a better method than muzzling my dogs, the safer it will be for the children who have never been bitten; otherwise I am very much afraid the "mournful cortege" will soon appear at his door. I would advise "Stonewall" to revert to his old abode.

Another bit of advice: "Stonewall" should try to persuade his unruly children from inciting my dogs when chained up. In "Stonewall's" previous communication he stated he was a lover of dogs; probably, liking dogs so much, he would no doubt wish to see all dogs kept on chain without any exercise whatever.

"Stonewall," when mentioning the incident of Friday, omitted to observe that the dogs were muzzled and in charge of a coolie, as a P. S. will verify.—Yours faithfully,
CHAD T. KEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 7th October.

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent signed "Chad T. Kew," should the "mournful cortege" he predicts arrive at my house I should know how to act. Mr. Kew should not draw hasty conclusions when he refers to the previous communication in your paper, which I deny *in toto*. For his information, I may say that after the disgraceful occurrence of women being worried, their clothes torn, and legs lacerated, I reported the same at the Central Police Station. As to my children (aged 2 and 3 years respectively) teasing the dogs when chained up, it is absurd and needs no comment.—Yours faithfully,
C. E. WARREN.

CHAIR AND RICKSHA COOLIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 7th October.

SIR,—A few days ago you had an article in your paper on the subject of ricksha coolies and chair-coolies. I therefore venture to write to you hoping you will give your powerful support to suppress a nuisance—I may say, to some Europeans of a somewhat irritable temperament, a quite intolerable nuisance. I allude to the fact of every other chair or ricksha-coolie one passes in the street soliciting your custom—and this in no quiet fashion, but "Hi, John, Hi Captain; ricksha, chair!" shouted at the top of their voices. I had just come from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and walked to the Hongkong Dispensary; during that time I should think I was bawled at quite 100 times—mark you, this was done simply as an impertinence, the men well knowing they were not required. One man almost followed me into Watson's, and on my calling the attention of the English gentleman there who served me, he remarked things were managed very differently in Shanghai, and that such a state of things there would not be tolerated for an instant. I wonder where else it would be.

A Bath-chair in England is the nearest approach we have to a ricksha. I wonder how long people in England would stand a chorus of shouts and yells from all Bath-chair men on a stand and the being followed in your walk by some half-dozen?

I have known China off and on for close on thirty years, and I am always most careful to treat shop-keepers, servants, etc., with civility and courtesy—I never chaff them, and never wish to do so. It is not too much, surely, to think that a humble subject of the King, who has passed the half-century, might be allowed to walk down the main street of an English colonial town without being howled and shrieked at like a mad dog.—Yours, etc.,
ENGLISHMAN.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LD.

In the Society's offices, 1, Queen's Buildings, at noon on Thursday, the thirtieth ordinary meeting of shareholders was held. Mr. A. G. Wood (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. W. Slade, E. S. Wheeler, and C. A. Tómes (directors), W. J. Saunders (secretary), Hon. Gershom Stewart, Messrs. Ahmer, C. E. H. Beavis, H. J. M. Carvalho, J. A. Carvalho, F. D. Goddard, F. B. Hett, H. R. Hunter, G. Melchers, J. R. Michael, H. M. H. Nemasie, C. H. Rogge, A. B. Rouse, H. W. D. Schmidt, E. V. M. B. Souza, R. C. Wilcox, and G. Winterburn.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report has been in your hands for nearly three weeks, and with your permission, I will take it as read. The figures we have to lay before you are, we consider, very satisfactory. They compare favourably in every particular with the figures contained in last year's report, and as the rate of exchange taken for the 30th June 1903 is the same as that taken for the 30th

June, 1902 the comparison is a fair one and not upset by exchange. The result of working for the year 1902 shows a balance of \$968,815.98 now to be dealt with, this being rather more than \$150,000 in excess of the balance shown for the 1901 account last year. We propose to pay a dividend of \$32 per share (against \$30 last year), to place to reserve \$150,000, and to carry forward to underwriting suspense account \$4,881,598. The figures for the year 1903 are, so far as they go, exceedingly good, showing an increase in premium of more than \$100,000 and a decrease in losses of \$166,000 as compared with last year at the same date, but, as you are aware, it is far too early to make any forecast of the final result yet. Turning now to the balance-sheet we find our funds in the East have increased by some \$200,000, and that investments in London and Melbourne have increased by some \$44,000. On the other side of the account we find an increase in paid-up capital of \$500,000 and a decrease in exchange fluctuation account of a similar sum. The shareholders were fully informed of this proposed transfer from exchange fluctuation account to capital account last year, and it was carried out at the end of the year without any dissenting voice being heard. This brings me to the question of exchange, a question which was referred to at some length at our last annual meeting and has continued to be an ever-present matter of consideration to your directors in the meantime. To a company whose liabilities to its shareholders are in dollars, but whose business is mainly in sterling and whose assets have therefore to be largely held in sterling, the proper method of dealing with exchange is of vital importance, and I think our system has very well stood the test of the recent violent fluctuations in the value of the dollar. The reinsurance fund and underwriting suspense account which you were told last year were treated as gold liabilities are this year shown as such in the balance-sheet. The investment fluctuation account is mainly a gold liability, and also the working account, 1903 balance is, to a large extent, in gold. Any fall in the dollar equivalent of sterling investments would be met, to a large extent, by a corresponding fall in the above-named liabilities, and for the rest we have to fall back on the exchange fluctuation account, which is at the present time sufficient to insure the balance of our sterling assets up to 2s. 6d. for the dollar, which seems a fairly safe limit. The dollar now stands at 1s. 10½d., or 2½d. higher than it did at the 30th June, a rise of more than 11 per cent in the three months, and shareholders are to be congratulated on being able to remit their dividends home at this figure should they wish to do so. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to hear if anyone would like to ask any questions.

No questions being asked, the Chairman proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

The Hon. GERSHOM STEWART said—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I rise with very much pleasure to second the adoption of the report and accounts, but the figures are so extremely satisfactory that I do not think it requires any words of mine to recommend them to you. They speak very eloquently for themselves, and I am sure we can all feel in a very contented frame of mind when we see our resources so well invested and available at the shortest possible notice. I think the remarks which the chairman made about the manner in which this company treats the very difficult problem of exchange are worthy of earnest attention. It shows us the sound way in which good management can meet this very difficult question, and is an object lesson which we can all profit by. When we find the yearly reports issued by the company continue to be so satisfactory in the face of the ever-changing conditions of wind and weather, and the increasing competition, we must realise and appreciate that our interests are in very able hands at all points. (Applause.) We know that the foundations of the success of this company were well and truly laid by careful, steady and consistent policy in years gone by, and it is comforting to feel that the same systematic efficiency is maintained now that we are a much larger concern. I am sure

I am expressing the views of all present when I welcome back our most excellent secretary, who has been a victim for some days to an attack of dengue, and we wish him a complete recovery, the best of health, and continued prosperity (Applause.)

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. G. WINIBURN proposed and Mr. AHMER seconded that Messrs. N. A. Siebs and A. G. Wood be re-elected to the directorate.

The CHAIRMAN—Our next business is the election of the auditor. Mr. J. H. Cox retired from his position as auditor at the end of last year, having served continuously in that position since 1876, a period of 26 years. The Board would like to place on record their appreciation of his services during this long period. Mr. Lowe was appointed to audit the present accounts, and stands for re-election together with Mr. Potts.

Capt. F. D. GODDARD proposed and Mr. J. MELCHERS seconded that Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-elected auditors. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN said—That is all the business to be put before the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LD.

The following is the forty-seventh report of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. (Yokohama Shokin Ginko), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at the head office, Yokohama, on the 10th September:—

The gross profits of the bank for the past half-year, including yen 595,852.074 brought forward from last Accounts, amount to yen 6,625,134.711, of which yen 4,639,839.160 have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of yen 1,985,245.551.

The directors now propose that yen 150,000.000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 9,210,000.000, and that yen 200,000 be put aside as special reserve to provide for the depreciation of the silver funds. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 720,000.000 on old shares and yen 360,000.000 on new shares, making a total of 1,080,000.000 yen.

The balance, yen 555,245.551, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANI SONA, Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th September, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, 30th June, 1903.

LIABILITIES.		Yen
Capital paid up	18,000,000.000	
Reserve fund	9,060,000.000	
Reserve for doubtful debts	329,087.880	
Reserve for depreciation of banks premises, properties, furniture, etc...	612,230.700	
Reserve for silver funds	200,000.000	
Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	78,112,857.339	
Bills payable, bills re-discounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	58,822,597.834	
Dividends unclaimed	5,457.020	
Amount brought forward from last account	505,852.71	
Net profit for the past half-year	1,479,393.480	
	Yen 167,127,876.324	

ASSETS.		Yen
Cash account:—		
In hand	4,522,314.320	
At bankers	2,397,525.800	7,919,840.120
Investments in public securities	25,724,753.320	
Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	46,227,24.250	
Bills receivable and other sums due to the bank	85,876,930.194	
Bullion and foreign money	109,825.100	
Bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	1,469,463.140	
	Yen 167,127,876.324	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To current expenses, interest, &c.	4,639,839.160
To reserve fund	150,000.000
To reserve for silver funds	200,000.000
To dividend—	
Yen 6,000 per share for 120,000 old shares—yen 720,000.000; and yen 3,000 per share for 120,000 new shares—yen 360,000.000	1,080,000.000
To balance carried forward to next account	555,245.551
	Yen 6,625,134.711

By balance brought forward 31st December, 1902	Yen 515,852.071
By amount of gross profits for the half-year ending 30th June, 1903	6,119,282.640
	Yen 6,625,134.711

CRICKET.

TEAM FOR SHANGHAI V. SERCOMBE SMITH'S XI.

This match was played on the Cricket Ground on the 3rd inst. and resulted in a brilliant victory for the Interport team by 104 runs and 4 wickets. Owing to Ward having strained his leg on Friday, a place was found in the Shanghai XI for Walter Dixon, while de Paris played instead of Garde on the other side. The chief feature of the match was the fine batting of Turner, who went in with one wicket down for 52 on his side and scored 61 out of 131 added for the next three wickets. Though not equal in finish to Turner's performance, Smith's 66 was a capital innings; and Lumsden's hitting in the last portion of the game was a sight worth witnessing. He and Cooper made 22 off Sercombe Smith's final over. The Interport team added to the impression which it made the previous week, and it is with feelings of confidence that the Eleven can go up to Shanghai—confidence that they can at least make a good fight.

It was about noon when Sercombe Smith went to the wicket accompanied by William Dixon, the bowling being entrusted to J. T. Dixon and Bird. The start was bad, as the left-hander got rid of Dixon in his third over, the score being 10. Irwin joined Smith, and runs came, though slowly, until at 46 Smith fell to a catch off Lumsden (who had taken up the bowling), having compiled 23. Maitland and Rimington alone of the remainder made any show, and the total had only reached 129 when the last man was out. All six bowlers who were tried met with success, Lumsden and Dixon bearing the brunt of the attack. When the Interport men went in the game became far more lively, and R. Hancock, Lieut. Smith, Turner, H. Hancock, and Lumsden treated the bowling with some severity. Sercombe Smith's side's total was passed with two wickets down, and though Arthur and Dixon got out cheaply 233 was on the board for 6 wickets when the bell rang. Score and analysis:—

T. SERCOMBE SMITH'S XI.

T. Sercombe Smith, c Walter Dixon, b Lumsden	23
William Dixon, b E. E. O. Bird	1
P. H. Irwin, R.N., c Arthur, b J. T. Dixon ..	15
F. Maitland, c Walter Dixon, b Pearce	21
Lt. Toulmin, R.M.L.I., c R. Hancock, b Pearce	6
A. d'A. Punnett, R.N., l.b.w., b Lumsden ..	9
Lt. Rimington, S.F., c Pearce, b Cooper	28
Capt. P. G. Davies, A.O.D., c J. T. Dixon, b Lumsden	0
Capt. Blach, R.A., b H. Hancock	3
— de Paris, R.N., b J. T. Dixon	0
J. Lee, not out	4
Extras	20
Total	129

SHANGHAI TEAM.

R. Hancock (capt.), b Lee	23
Lt. H. Smith, R.A., c Rimington, b Irwin ..	68
W. C. D. Turner, c and b Toulmin	61
H. Hancock, c and b T. Sercombe Smith ..	28
Lt. Lumsden, R.A., not out	25
J. T. Dixon, c de Paris, b T. S. Smith	5
H. Arthur, c Rimington, b Toulmin	0
C. R. S. Cooper, not out	13
Extras	9
Total (6 wickets)	233

T. E. Pearce, R.E. O. Bird and Walter Dixon, did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

T. SERCOMBE SMITH'S XI.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
J. T. Dixon	12	5	20	2
Bird	7	—	27	1
Lumsden	16	6	28	3
Pearce	8	3	13	2
H. Hancock	6	1	19	1
Cooper	24	—	4	1

SHANGHAI TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Sercombe Smith	13	2	78	2
William Dixon	7	—	29	—
Toulmin	16	2	47	2
Lee	7	—	30	1
Irwin	6	1	18	1
Davies	4	—	22	—

CRAIGENGOWER CRICKET CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the Craigen-gower Cricket Club was held in the pavilion at Wouneicheong, on the 3rd inst. Mr. W. D. Braidwood presided over a large assembly of members.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report with the accounts for the past season be adopted.

Mr. L. E. LAMMERT seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman was unanimously re-elected President for the ensuing season, with the following office-bearers:—Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. E. Asger; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. Rapp, Committee, R. Basa (capt.), L. E. Lammert (vice-capt.), A. O. Brawn, M. E. Asger, J. L. Stuart, and L. A. Rose.

Discussion on various matters took place, and before the meeting terminated the following proposal was unanimously passed:—"That the members desire to place on record their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Club by Mr. M. E. Asger as captain for many years past, their regret at his resignation owing to ill-health, their wish for his speedy recovery, and their hope that he may be able to resume his captaincy next year with as much success as he has done in the past, and a letter be forwarded to him to that effect."

The annual report is as follows:—The committee have much pleasure in submitting their report for the season 1902-3. The season was a very successful one in every way. Of the 22 matches played, 17 were won and 5 lost, all of them being keenly contested. Mr. R. Basa, who heads the list of batting averages with 16.6 in 22 innings, has won the Belillios Challenge Shield outright, having secured the best average for the third time. It will be remembered the Shield was presented by Mr. E. R. Belillios, C.M.G., to the Club in 1893, and its conditions were that before becoming the property of any person, it must be won by him two seasons in succession or three times in all. The following are the previous holders:—1893-99 ... R. Basa ... average, 23.3
1899-1900 ... M. E. Asger ... " 38.
1900-01 ... R. Basa ... " 25.2
1901-02 ... J. P. Jordan ... " 22.1
Mr. R. Pestonji obtained the best bowling analysis, with an average of 4.9 for 58 wickets.

The amount of subscriptions being inadequate, and the expenditure having increased, there remains at the close of the season a balance of only \$33.92. The refreshment bar pays its way well.

The total number of members is at present 54.

Lawn-tennis was resumed during the summer months, and there was greater enthusiasm shown in the Tournament; the entries being double those of last year.

The final in the scratch singles was won by Mr. A. O. Brawn, and the same gentleman and Mr. J. P. Jordan won the doubles.

The members held a very successful "at home" on the 31st January last. During the afternoon a return match with the Volunteer Coronation Contingent was played, which ended in a victory for the Club, and the various prizes were presented.

The thanks of the Club are due to the President for his annual cricket prizes.

We regret to report that Mr. M. E. Asger, who has captained the team so ably since the formation of the Club ten years ago, has owing to several reasons felt himself compelled to resign his post.

Dr. Dominador Gomez was sentenced at Manila on the 29th ult. to imprisonment for four years and two months and to pay a fine of 3,250 pesetas, his offences being the foundation of an illegal association, sedition, conspiring with cut-throats, etc. He will be allowed no bail while appealing.

The Manila Chamber of Commerce accuses Collector Shuster with a grave break of confidence, disclosing business secrets of foreign merchants, and giving Dr. Niederlein, head of the St. Louis Exposition Board, private samples and invoices. Mr. Shuster seems to be making himself popular with foreigners in Manila.

HONGKONG.

A *Government Gazette Extraordinary* on the 3rd inst. announced that quarantine regulations against vessels arriving from Hongkong have been withdrawn by the Government of French Indo-China.

About 100 were present at the Masonic Quadrille Club's dance on the 3rd inst. in the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street. The floor was in excellent condition, and the dancing was most enjoyable, being kept up until 11:45.

At the Happy Valley on Monday afternoon Clark and Kew's teams tried conclusions in the six-a-side football competition of the H.K.F.C. In the first half Kew scored a goal, and in the last minute of the game Clark equalised.

The return showing the number of cases of communicable disease existing in the Colony for the week ending the 3rd October, 1903, discloses the fact that there were only two cases of bubonic plague, in the City of Victoria, and one case of smallpox, all among the Chinese. Two more cases of plague were reported on Wednesday, both being Chinese, found dead.

The Maharajah and Maharani of Kapurthala arrived by the *Ernest Simons* that morning. H.H. Farzad-i Dilband Rasikh-ul Itika Daulat-i-Inglishia Raja-i-Bajagan Raja Sir Jagajit Singh Bahadur, K.C.S.I., as his name and titles appear in full, has a territory in the Punjab of 583 square miles, with a population of 314,269; his estates in Ondh had a population of 253,000 in 1881. His Highness has recently been seriously ill and is taking a trip to Japan by the advice of his physicians.

H.E. Yang Chu, the new Chinese Minister to the Court of Tokyo, arrived from Canton with his family by the *Kin-han* on the 5th inst., being received by a number of friends on his arrival. He was entertained at dinner the same night by the Hon. Wei Yuk at his house in MacDonnell Road, a number of European guests being asked to meet him. H.E. Yang was entertained to tiffin at Government House on the 6th inst. and to dinner by some of the leading Chinese residents of this Colony. He left for Japan on the 7th inst. by the *Kasuga Maru*.

H.M.S. *Glory* will be docked some time in November at the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's establishment at Kowloon, for a thorough refit. In previous times the Dock company have refitted warships for the U.S. and the German Governments, and also for Spain and Portugal; but this is the first occasion on which there has been entrusted to them the complete refit of a British warship. The refit will occupy about three months. It may be interesting to recall the fact that when vessels of the *Glory* class were refitted at the Naval Yard the operation occupied some six months; it will be a feather in the cap of the Dock Company if the refit of the *Glory* is finished in three.

Quite a long time ago—the exact date is 24th January—a daring highway robbery, of which Mrs. G. Sheffield was the victim, took place on Kennedy Road in broad daylight. It will be remembered that while Mrs. Sheffield and her son, aged 10 years, were cycling along, the former in turning a bend of the narrow road ran into five men who in a line blocked the way. These ruffians threw the lady to the ground, on her face and tried to steal her rings and bracelet. They succeeded in securing a gold watch and the biggest part of a chain, which broke during the struggle. Something frightened the thieves before they could force the rings from Mrs. Sheffield's fingers, and they decamped. Several men were arrested by the police, but unfortunately they could not be identified. However, crime will out, and as Mrs. Sheffield was entering the small court at the Magistracy on Wednesday, to proceed against her servant for not obeying orders, she recognised one of the coolies who were before His Worship on the charge of the assault and riot at West Point as one of the men concerned in the highway robbery. Later on the lady picked out the man from a number of others, and he will be proceeded against. It is to be hoped that if the identification is correct, the other members of the gang may be got at through the man in custody.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Newchwang has been declared an infected port.

The U.S. gunboat *Callao* arrived from Macao on Wednesday evening.

The resignation by Lt. J. W. Graham of his commission in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has been accepted.

On the 7th inst. a large flock of pelicans, wedge-shaped, numbering about 200, were observed flying up from the north, bound for their usual winter haunts at the mouth of the Samohun River.

By the Rev. C. Hickling, in the Union Church on the 7th inst., Mr. Harry Eyre, of Messrs. Wm. Powell, Ltd., was married to Miss Mabel Wharton, who arrived by the *Sado Maru* earlier in the morning. A reception was afterwards held in the Connaught House Hotel.

On the invitation of the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., the choir of St. John's Cathedral enjoyed a moonlight launch trip on the 5th inst., leaving Queen's Statue Wharf shortly after 6.30. At Chinwan Bay dinner was served on the launch, Sir Paul Chater's *Christine*. The party returned to the wharf at 11 o'clock.

The wedding took place at St. John's Cathedral on the 7th inst. of Mr. Evan Ormiston, manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, and Miss Kathleen Anne Homan, who recently arrived in the colony. Mr. C. R. Scott, manager of the International Banking Corporation, acted as best man. The bride was given away by Mr. C. H. Grace.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. W. J. Tatcher has been appointed Acting Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, during the absence of Mr. Dunn, and Mr. S. B. C. Ross Acting Postmaster-General during the absence of Mr. L. A. M. Johnston. Both Messrs. Dunn and Johnston are proceeding to Weihaiwei on public service.

The H.K.V.C. Camp starts on the 23rd inst. and will continue till the 3rd November. On account of the accident that occurred last year there will be no matches on this occasion, the Volunteers being housed in tents and marquees. There will be a concert on Tuesday, the 27th inst., when the Governor will be present; otherwise the guest nights will be Saturdays and Sundays.

Several lots of Crown land were sold by auction on Monday in the P. W. D. offices. Marine Lot No. 284 on the Praya reclamation at the east side of Whitty Street, Sheklongtau was exposed at an upset price of \$98,800 and was sold to Mr. Un Lai Chuen and Mr. Tang Lai Tong for \$133,500. Three small lots in the Peak Road were sold to Mr. H. Humphreys.

Owing to the Pollard Company having to postpone their departure from this Colony at the last moment, it was determined, in view of the great popularity of the musical items with which they have interspersed their comedies, to give a special variety concert on the 3rd inst. in the City Hall, the Theatre Royal being unfortunately engaged, and a very attractive programme was placed before an appreciative audience. The Pollards left on Monday for Singapore.

Before the thieves who broke into Miss Bateman's house have been brought to book, the Police are confronted with another case of housebreaking from an European house, that of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's premises on the Praya. A gold ring and a gold chain and pendants were the articles stolen. The thief was evidently an old hand, having the sharpness to detach from the chain a watch on which was Mr. J. D. Danby's monogram. It is presumed that while the occupants of the house were asleep, the rogue went first into Mr. Danby's room, where he possessed himself of the chain and pendants, thence he paid a visit to the chamber of Mr. G. Gittens and took a fancy to a ring, the property of that gentleman. Probably the fairy-like tramp, of a distant Indian constable broke the stillness of the night? Anyhow the pilferer contented himself with the articles named above, though there were numerous other valuables lying handy. It appears that a Chinese watchman was on duty and he reported that only two strangers had access to the house, one of whom was the milk-man. These men were searched and their lodgings overhauled, but nothing incriminating was found.

An eclipse of the moon, lasting for about one hour, from 11 p.m. to midnight, was visible here on Tuesday night.

We hear that it is proposed to lay out in the near future a Peak Park, both for the cultivation of plants and for the benefit of residents on the higher level. The site has not yet been decided on.

We received on Tuesday evening from the Colonial Secretary's Office a copy of the following telegram from H.B.M.'s Consul at Saigon to the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong:—"Quarantine withdrawn."

Not only is Canton going to send down a four to row at the Hongkong Regatta, but the local Boat Club is also sending up a crew to Canton. The latter event will be earlier in point of time. Canton's rowing talent has not been prominent of late, but there appears now to be a genuine revival, a fact which is welcome news to Hongkong, for it adds another element of competition in boating circles.

In their rooms, 26, Des Voeux Road, on the 6th inst., the Y.M.C.A. autumn reception was held, commencing at 7.30. About 200 were present, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The President, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., occupied the chair and gave a short address. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Hoare, Archdeacon Banister, and the Rev. W. Bridie addressed the meeting. Refreshments were handed round during the evening, and selections played by the band of the 10th Bombay Infantry.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is proposed to found a Buddhist College in Burma on the lines of the Mahomedan College at Aligarh and the Central Hindu College at Benares.

An official intimation was sent to the Banks at Bangkok on the 25th ult. that the Treasury selling rate for ticals, until further notice, is 17 to the pound sterling.

On the 3rd inst. a medal was to be issued in Siam to those of royal rank and to officials. It was struck in commemoration of the fact that H.M. the King of Siam has reigned 35 years—twice as long as his predecessor.

A murderous assault took place in Canton on Thursday night, the 1st inst. A bluejacket from one of the French gunboats lying in the harbour stabbed a Chinaman above the heart during a drunken fit. The wounded man was still alive when we last heard from Shameen. The affair occurred close to the British bridge, opposite Yuen Hang's store.

No fewer than 30,000 Russian emigrants, of the farming and similar classes, are reported to have settled themselves in Manchuria lately, about 8,000 of them being in Feng-tien. It is not surprising to hear that they are treating the natives in a very high-handed way. It is part of Russia's "civilising mission" to introduce her barbarians into previously peaceful regions.

A sad occurrence took place on the race course, Shanghai, on the morning of the 28th ult., when Mr. James Keenan, of the Shanghai Horse Bazaar, fell down and died suddenly. He was holding a pony's head at the time, and it was stated that he was kicked by the animal. The *N.C. Daily News* says:—"His death came as a painful shock to many old friends. The funeral to-day will be with military honours, in consideration of Mr. Keenan's honourable service with the Shanghai Volunteer Artillery as a rough rider."

The Procession at Macao of Our Lady of the Rosary on Sunday was very imposing, and was very numerously followed by the clergy, members of various religious societies of Macao, the boys of St. Joseph's Seminary, and a large concourse of people from Macao and Hongkong. His Lordship the Bishop of Macao officiated, and immediately behind the Bishop were H.E. the Governor of Macao with his private secretary and A.D.C. and the principal military and naval officers followed by a guard of honour and the band. The procession started from the S. Domingo's Church and slowly wound its way through several streets, passing the Sé Cathedral and the Leal Senado, returning to the same Church, and the whole route was lined by Europeans and Chinese viewing the procession; besides all the windows of the houses were filled with ladies and children.

COMMERCIAL.

SHANGHAI.—From a statistical point of view the year 1902 was very satisfactory as both Imports and Exports showed very large increases. Cotton Goods alone were responsible for the increase in Imports, the total value being Hk. Tls. 99,000,000 or 27 Millions more than the previous year. Although satisfactory from a revenue standpoint, this enormous advance was more the result of over-trading, as the heavy stocks at 30th June and 31st December 1902 clearly proved, than due to actual improvement in demand. For the merchants engaged in the trade, both Foreign and Native, the year did not show very good results. Tientsin opened well but the serious drop in the value of their Tael interfered greatly with Imports, and, for a time, completely put a stop to business. Newchwang also suffered from the same cause, and then, in addition to this, came the collapse in sterling exchange. A number of the largest Piece Goods dealers in Shanghai were very heavily hit by the latter, as they had sold a quantity of cargo (bought by them on a sterling basis) to the merchants before the drop and neglected to settle their Exchange. In addition to this they had to bear the cost of carrying the cargo left on their hands owing to the cessation of demand from the North, and with Native Interest at a very high level this proved most expensive. Altogether the year, which opened so auspiciously, ended in very reduced profits and in some cases showed actual losses. The Export Trade did not show up so well as was to have been expected, aided as it was by the low Exchange. The Silk Crop was a failure and the quantity available for Export was very much below the average of previous years. Owing, however, to the higher level of prices, consequent upon the very short crop, the value of the Silk exported was fully equal to previous years, and it is satisfactory to learn that on the whole this branch was profitable for those engaged in it. The Chinese Cotton Crop only yielded half its normal amount, and the Local Mills were seriously handicapped by the abnormally high prices of the raw material. In face of this it is strange to read in the report that "There was an increase of 27 million Taels in the value of Native produce exported. To this increase Raw Cotton for its share alone contributed 8½ millions, large shipments of this staple, amounting to nearly treble the previous year's figures, went to Japan." The Straw Braid trade did not show the expansion that might have been expected, and this is attributed to a great extent to the tricky practices of the plaiters. Carelessness of production and malpractices on the part of most of the Natives engaged in the Export trade of China seems to be the universal complaint throughout all the Reports.

AMOI.—A Foreign Office report on the trade of Amoy (China) for the year 1902 states that taking the average exchange for the twelve months at 2s. 7½d. against 2s. 1½d. to the Haikwan Tael in the previous year, the gross seaborne traffic amounted to £3,358,000 as compared with £3,809,000 for the previous year. Excluding re-exports, consisting mainly of Formosan tea transhipped en route to foreign countries and Hong Kong, the net value of the trade of the port was £2,231,000, as against £2,177,000 in 1901, or £54,000 increase. Both imports and exports generally show a falling-off, and the apparent increase is more than made up by the increased importation of rice and opium, these two items alone accounting for an additional import value of £360,000, namely, opium £67,000 and rice £293,000. Owing to the exceptional drought the early rice harvest was very poor, and during the spring and summer months plague and cholera prevailed as usual in the principal inland centres of consumption. Heavily increased taxation, in every possible direction, accompanied by general lawlessness throughout the province, further interfered with trade, while in October a disastrous fire occurred in Amoy, which destroyed a large part of the business quarter of the town and entailed a partial suspension of business for over three weeks. General loss resulted and very few business men made money during the year. The value of the direct trade with foreign countries was £2,579,000, including re-exports £550,000, almost double the value of the exports. Of this total the trade with the United Kingdom and British dependencies amounted to £1,286,000, nearly the whole of which was with Hong Kong and Singapore.

SILK.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son, in their circular, dated the 1st October, state:—The home markets are unchanged. Gold Killing is quoted at Lyons at Frs. 86, and in London at 18/-

Raw Silk.—There are no settlements of Taitless to record; some Tayasams have been taken at full rates, otherwise the market is very dull for all white Silks. Yellow Silks—continue in request and extremely high prices are being paid, and this is the more pronounced when the quantity of the cargo is considered. Hand Filatures—are neglected. Steam Filatures—are weak, with very little business doing. Wild Silk—contracts for the new Season's Filatures are recorded on the basis of Spinning Girls 8 Cocoons at Tls. 4½. Waste Silk.—Market quiet, more for want of supplies than from any falling off in the demand. Shantung B has been due at Tls. 4½ (whole bales).

CANTON, 24th September.—Exports Re-reels.—No transactions are reported in this class, and local values have weakened about \$20 per picul Filatures.—The lower Exchange has brought buyers nearer to the firm level of prices established by holders, and a very fair business has resulted. Prices if anything still incline upwards owing to unfavourable rumours on the 5th crop, the cocoons of which are reported plentiful but as giving a poor yield of silk. From settlements we quote Sam Yu Ye, Kai Lun Cheong 9/11 at \$980, Cheong Kee 9/11 (2nd crop) at \$945, King Tack On 10/12 at \$910, Yu Loong Hing 10/12 at \$930, Lee Yuen Hing, Mei Lun Hing 10/12 at \$815, Min Lun On, Kam Lun 10/12 at \$900, Chee Chung Wo 11/13 at \$940, Lee Yuen Hing 13/15 at \$875, Wai King Wo 13/22 at \$820. In "Native" filatures a large business has been done at \$850 for Best 3e Order 11/13, \$825 for 11/13, 13/15, \$790/800 for 13/15, \$760/770 for 14/18, \$740 for 18/22. Short-reels.—Have also had a fair share of enquiry. Miu King Lon was done at \$940 and Tien Po Hang at \$935, early in the fortnight. Extra chops have now advanced and \$950 was since paid for Kwong Wo Hing. In other grades, Quang Wo Hing has sold at \$920, Mee Kee at \$910 and Koun King at \$885. Waste Silk.—Has advanced heavily under native speculation in the interior, where the bulk of the stock is now held. Supplies in the hands of dealers are very light and sales made show considerable divergence according to the cost price of the holdings. Steam Ext. Sel. opened has sold from \$142 up to \$146 and Ext. Ext. opened at \$106/103. Other kinds are so scarce that it is difficult to quote accurately. Punjum Books No. 3 have been done at \$141 (now held in the country for \$145) and a small sale of Nos. 3 and 4 was made at \$135.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 9th October.—No arrivals.

RICE.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co. of Saigon, in their circular dated September 27th say:—As there is hardly anything to be called a demand for any direction, and as the weather proved, lately, very seasonable, our market shows marked signs of weakness. Real Cochinchina Paddy is not plentiful and the little that comes to the market is indeed of a poor average showing more or less yellow and red grains, which are unavoidable at this advanced stage of the season. Cambodia Paddy has been coming in freely lately and there is quite a stock of it in Cholon godowns: but the quality of the latter is much inferior to Cochinchina Paddy, as it contains a larger percentage of red grains, is much smaller in appearance, and turns out with more broken grains. The latter is sold much cheaper, than the former. As regards new Crop, the weather has been lately very favourable and the prospect, so far, looks very fair.

We quote for October delivery:—

No. 2 White sifted steam milled (round) ...	\$5.00
No. 2 " unsifted Do. " "	\$4.00
5 per cent. Cargo steam milled " "	\$3.70
10 per cent. " " " " "	\$3.55
20 per cent. " " " " "	\$3.55

A statement of this year's Exports of white rice, cargo rice, and paddy shows that the total has been 7,294,500 piculs, as compared with 10,984,300 piculs for the corresponding period of last year.

The exports of the month to date have been as follows:—

To Hongkong	27,800 piculs
" Manila	270,200 "
" Iloilo	"
" Cebu	142,300 "
" Japan	"
" Europe	30,400 "
Total	470,400

Freights to Hongkong are 8 cts. per picul; to the Philippines 21/22 cents.

HONGKONG, 9th October.—The prices are going downward, market being weak.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.05 to \$3.10
" Round, Good quality	4.80 to 4.85
" Long	5.05 to 5.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.65 to 3.70
" Garden, " No. 1	4.15 to 4.20
" White,	4.85 to 4.90
" Fine Cargo	5.15 to 5.20

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 9th October.—No demands having come forward, the prices are declining.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.35 to \$8.40 picul
Do. " 2, White	7.50 to 7.55 "
Do. No. 1, Brown	6.10 to 6.15 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.90 to 5.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.25 to 8.30 "
Do. " 2, White	7.35 to 7.40 "
Do. " 1, Brown	5.85 to 5.90 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.65 to 12.70 "
Shekloong "	10.70 to 10.75 "

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 26th Sept.—Fair business done at a decline of ½. Stock about 1,500 bales.

Bombay	23.50 to 24.00 picul
Bengal (New), Bangalore }	24.50 to 26.50 "
and Dacca	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	28.00 to 29.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	28.00 to 29.00 "

Sale:—700 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 9th October:—Tightness of money has continued to act prejudicially on the market, and the depression has been much aggravated by the prevalence of the usual mid-autumn festivities; the result being a considerable falling off in the volume of business, and a further general depreciation of \$1 to \$2, in price. Importers are becoming anxious sellers, and exceptional offers have been laid before dealers, but in no case have they been accepted, and our quotations, in consequence, have become quite nominal. We may mention that the country is almost bare of stock, and that when buying does commence it will sharp, sudden, and excited, more especially as the prospects of an abundant rice crop are encouraging. Meanwhile competition amongst holders still continues and the war of rates is unabated—market closing quiet and depressed.

Local Manufacture:—Quotations are maintained and about 800 bales No. 10's are reported sold at \$101. No enquiry for No. 12's.

Japanese Yarn:—In sympathy with the Indian article, is experiencing little or no demand, the only sale of the interval being 200 bales No. 20's Yellow Joss at \$124.

Raw Cotton:—The market has been featureless, China Cotton is scarce and wanted, and a small importation of 300 bales Ningpo is reported sold at from \$28½ to \$29. No stock. There is still no life in Indian descriptions, the country being irresponsible. About 350 bales superfine Bengal have changed hands at from \$24½ to \$25, leaving a stock of about 1,400 bales on the market. Quotations are Indian \$20 to \$27 and China \$28 to \$31.

Exchange on India has kept steady throughout the interval, and closes to-day at Rs. 138½ for T/T and Rs. 138½ for Post. On Shanghai 72 and on Yokohama 89½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ending the 25th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 11,425 bales, comprising 4,803 bales No. 10's, 1815 bales No. 12's, 40 bales No. 14's, 1020 bales No. 16's, and 3720 bales No. 20's, prices showing an advance of 1 Tael in No. 10's, and about 2 Taels in other counts, market closing firm. Estimated unsold stock 86,000 bales.

Japanese:—Prices steady, market firm. Total sales 2500 bales on the basis of Tls. 83½ to 90½ for No. 16's, and Tls. 90 to 95 for No. 20's.

Local:—There has been no improvement in the demand and the market is unsteady. Sales comprise 200 bales No. 80's, at Tls. 81 to 81½, 300 bales No. 12's, at Tls. 87½, and 900 bales No. 14's, at Tls. 85½ to 89.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 8th October.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New	\$970 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,030 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1,060 to — do.
Malwa A. Old	\$1,090 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$850 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$840 to — do.
Patna New	\$1,100 to — per chest.
Patna Old	— to — do.
Benares New	\$1,100 to — do.

HONGKONG, 8th October.—The movements in the opium markets have been as follows:

Stocks on 24th Sept., 1903.	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian.
Sept. 25, Imports per <i>Coromandel</i>	529	—	—	—
" 29, " " <i>A. Apear</i>	—	220	200	—
Oct. 9, " " <i>Laisang</i>	—	125	25	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,859	2,893	869	2,422
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.	167	233	50	—
	180	658	157	201

Estimated Stocks this day 1,012 1,952 662 2,221

Bengal.—There is hardly any change to report. Patna and Benares, is quoted at @ \$1,100.

Bargains 1,281 chests.

Malwa.—The market is steady at the following rates:—

New	\$ 970
2/3 Years old	1,030
4/5 "	1,060
Oldest	1,090

Persian.—The market for good qualities has remained steady and prices are as follows: Square \$765/790, long \$820/840.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

SHANGHAI.—1st October (From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report.) Since the issue of our last circular on the 24th ult, there has been little business done from first hands, but in some quarters there is a feeling that there is rather more movement in the market. This is noticeable in the clearances of American Sheetings, which have nearly all been taken by the Chefoo merchants, and it is pleasing to note that nearly all of the goods recently sold at public auction have gone into consumption in this direction. We have also heard that some orders have been received from Tientsin, but about this we have our doubts, as even with actual business before them merchants are quite helpless to deal in any quantities owing to the extreme tightness of money in the Native market. The pressure has become so acute that even retail dealers are finding difficulty in doing anything beyond the most meagre quantities. The favorable news from Hankow mentioned was evidently genuine as we hear the dealers have been fairly busy, and that a fair quantity, chiefly from second hands, has been arranged for shipment hence.

We also hear that the Szechuen market is rather better, but we have been unable to obtain particulars of what has been done but we believe the business is composed chiefly of Indian Yarn and Heavy Shirtings. We have been told several incidents have been placed for Grey Shirtings, Fine White Shirtings and Dyed Goods for spring arrival, and we further hear that the hopeless rates of exchange for forward delivery have completely spoiled many chances of doing business.

The Manchester market is quoted steady, but we have been told that for near shipment lower prices might be accepted. Cotton in Liverpool is now quoted 6.02d. as against 6.40d. a week ago. We have not heard of anything being done in New York.

AMOY AND FORMOSA.—The Amoy General Chamber of Commerce, in its report for the week ending 30th September, says:—

The following business has been done; Cotton, Bombay \$28.50 to 29/60 per picul. Shanghai 31.30 to 31.40. Ningpo, 29.40 to 29/50, total imports 2,516. Yarn, English 170/175 per bale. Bombay, 108/123. Cotton piece goods, 2/60 to 4/60. Woollens Camlets, 19/00, assorted Camlets 5.10. Spanish striped, 1.70, 190 per yard. Rice, Shanghai white 3.85 per picul; Wuhu, 4.60, Penang, 4.85, Saigon (white) 4.50; Rangoon, 4.85. Opium, Patna 1,100 per chest; Benares, 1,200. Malwa, 1,010. Szechuen, 720; Yunnan, 780. Pepper black, 29/31 per picul; white, 60/65. Wheat 3.45, Flour 2.05/2.10. Kerosene, America 3.50 per case; Sumatra, 3.10. Sumatra (bulk) 2.65 per 10 gallons. Tea, to New York 1 1/2 cents per lb; to London 45/- per ton.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 9th October.

Beans	\$31
Borax	\$17 1/2
Camphor (China)	\$96
" (Formosa)	\$100 @ 120
Cassia (First quality)	\$21 1/2
" (Second)	\$18
" Oil	\$175
Cloves	\$27 1/2
Fennel Seed Oil	\$310
Galangale	\$2 @ 6
Garlic	\$—
Ginseng	\$29
Grapes	\$21

Ivory	\$200 @ 650
Kismias	\$—
Olibanum	\$5 @ 25
Rosa Oil	\$1 @ 2 1/2
Saltpetre	\$10 @ 11 1/2
Sandal wood	\$10 @ 28
" Oil	\$19 @ 870
Senna Leaves	\$1 @ 7
Sugar Candy	\$11
Vermilion	\$87 1/2
Wax	\$42 @ 47

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

MANILA.—The latest quotations by mail are:—

HEMP.	
Albay, current	\$18 1/2
Leyte, do.	\$22 1/2 to 23 1/2
Daet, do.	\$16
Na. Caceres (Catanduanes)	\$19
Sorsogon	\$23.00
SUGAR.	
Iloilo No. 1	\$5 1/2
" 2	\$4 1/2
" 3	\$4 1/2
" Assorted	\$4 1/2
COPRA.	
Sun-dried	\$6.25
Laguna	\$5.75
F. M. Manila	\$6.25
RICE.	
Saigon Blanco	\$7.25
Rangoon	\$7.25
LEAF TOBACCO.	per quintal
Isabela, 1901 — 1st to 5th class	\$15 to \$12
Cagayan " " " " "	\$11 " \$38
Isabela, 1902 " " " " "	\$16 " \$36
Cagayan " " " " "	\$10 " \$32
Barili 1st class. Few stock, offered	\$13.50
" 2nd "	\$11.00
" 3rd "	\$9.50
Abra, Norte. No stocks.	
Union. " "	

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Laguna	\$5.75
F. M. Manila	\$6.25

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" 2nd "	\$11.00
" 3rd "	\$9.50
Abra, Norte. No stocks.	
Union. " "	

HANKOW, 30th September.—There is no business reported since the 23rd inst. The entire business to date, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, is estimated as under:—

	1903.	1902.
	4-chts.	4-chts.
For London, America and European Continent..	194,632	147,105
For Russia	532,140	507,000
	726,772	654,105

HANKOW, 30th September.—The prices are quoted for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls 35.00
Do., seconds	" 30.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 24.00
Do., do. 10/35 lbs.	" 24.00
Do., do. 35/60 "	" 24.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour, average 2 lbs., 50 p. c. short, 30 p. c. med. and 20 p. c. long hair	" 63.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" 11.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 13.75
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 12.75
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 12.75
Jute	" 4.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 12.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" 11.90
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 12.50
Animal Tallow	" 12.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 21.00
Do., Plum do.	" 23.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	" 19.75
Do., do. do. Wild Duck	" 24.00

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 9th October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	234
Credits 4 months' sight	237 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	189 1/2

ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	46
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138 1/2
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138 1/2
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	89 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	112
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	57.90
BAR SILVER, per oz.	27 1/2

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 9th October, 1903.—We have still no business of any importance to report, and the market continues dull and uninteresting, with but few fluctuations in rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled steady to strong with sales at \$635, closing with some sellers at that rate, although a few odd lots are wanted. Nationals unchanged with only a small business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have again been placed at \$525 cash cum. div. (\$32) paid to-day; the closing rate is \$495 ex div. China Traders have improved to \$62 with sales, and more shares wanted at the rate. Yangtszes and North Chinas remain neglected at quotations. The Straits Insurance Company has concluded liquidation, paying \$2.41 per share.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are reported at \$325 with further small sales. China Fires have been in demand all the week at \$89, but no sales have been effected.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have been placed at \$32 and \$31 1/2 in small lots, closing steady at the latter rate. Indos have ruled between \$80 and \$82, with little or no business. Douglasses have further declined to \$29 after small sales at \$31 and \$30, but close with buyers at the lowest rate. China Manilas, which have been in some request, have been placed at \$18 1/2 and \$18 1/4 for cash; and at \$18 1/2 and \$19 for 31st December closing with buyers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been placed at \$97 1/2 and \$96 1/2, closing at \$97. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—With the exception of a few sales of Jelebus at 50 cents we have nothing to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled weak during the week with sellers from \$206 to \$203 closing with probable sellers at the latter rate. On time shares have changed hands at \$210 for December. Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$88 after small sales at \$87 and \$87 1/2. New Amoy Docks unchanged. Karmhama have further declined in Shanghai to \$134.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have small buyers at \$153, but close without business. Hongkong Hotels have improved to \$149 with sales at that and \$148. Orientes continue on offer at \$58 without inducing business. Humphrey's Estates have been dealt in to a limited extent at \$10 1/2.

COTTONS.—No change or business to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved to \$23 with sales, and close with buyers at \$22 1/2. Dairy Farms have improved a point. United Asbestos have found buyers at \$9, and more could be placed at the rate. China Providents and Powells have been placed to a limited extent at quotations.

MEMO.—Canton Insurance Office Limited, ordinary general early meeting on 22nd instant. Transfer books closed on the 8th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$635, sellers L'don, £650 10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$28, buyers
Four. Shares	21	\$10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$5, sellers
Canton Hongkong Ice	\$10	\$10, nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$9, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$5, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$97
Cigar Companies		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$20, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18, sellers
Cotton Mills		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 32, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40, sellers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160
Hongkong	\$100	\$14, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$23
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$7, sellers
H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$320, sellers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$149
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$250, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$88
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$204, sellers
Insurance		
Canton	\$50	\$195, buyers
China Fire	\$60	\$89, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$62, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sales & sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 225, sellers
Union	\$100	\$495, ex div., buy.
Yangtze	\$80	\$135
Land and Building		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$153
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35
West Point Building	\$50	\$50, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, buyers
Mining		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	50 cent.
Punjom	\$11	\$1.65,
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents
Rauhs	18/10	\$8, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$37
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$58, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sales & sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.		
China and Manila	\$50	\$18, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$29, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$31, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$210	\$82, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	21. 1s. sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$26, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 134, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and (Cle. ning Co., Ltd.)	\$50	\$50, nominal
Tobr. u. Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9, sales
Do.	\$10	\$200
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending 2nd October say:—The September Settlement has been cleared since our last issue, and although we hear of a few transactions being carried forward, yet it went through in a most satisfactory manner. The two days necessary for clearance interfered somewhat with business this week, and we have not yet resumed our normal traffic. Money is still very tight, particularly amongst the Native Banks and no relief is apparently forthcoming. The T.T. rate is quoted at 2/6—3/4. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been negotiated locally at \$62 1/2 ex 73, and in Hongkong at \$63 1/2. The London rate is 264—104. Marine Insurance.—

The only transaction reported is in China Traders at \$61 ex 73. Unions.—The report and accounts are issued and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 32 per cent., to add to reserve \$150,000, making this account up to \$1,750,000. The balance—\$408,815 is carried to underwriting suspense account. Shares have been negotiated in Hongkong from \$500 up to \$515. Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—A small lot of Indos were sold for the Settlement at Tls. 59 for cash; no other business is reported. Shanghai Tugs and Lighters have been placed at Tls. 58 for ordinary, and Tls. 50 for preference ex div. Docks & Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., have wavered between Tls. 136 and 137 1/2 for cash with forward rates as follows:—137 1/2/139 October, 140/139 December, 141/140 January, and 143/142 March. At these rates a fair business has been done. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are reported at Tls. 220 for December, with buyers at Tls. 215 for cash. Mining.—Weihaiois are still being placed at par, and a single transaction is reported for November at \$21. Lands.—Shanghai remain quite at Tls. 106. Hongkong Lands are quoted Tls. 153 sales in Hongkong. Industrial.—Cottons. No business reported. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkats. Some buying for the Settlement carried the rate to Tls. 277 1/2, but on the 30th the price dropped to Tls. 272 1/2 for cash; a very trifling business have been done and our market for forward delivery remains at this figure with Tls. 275 for October reported. For March, however, a fair trade has been put through at Tls. 300 and more shares are wanted. Sumatras have sellers at Tls. 52. Stores and Hotels.—Weeks have been placed at \$22 and Hall and Holtz at \$34. Miscellaneous.—There are sellers of Telephones at Tls. 68. China Import and Export Lumber Co. have been dealt in at Tls. 112 1/2.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Agamemnon, Borneo, Pak Ling, Tantalus, Polyphemus.

FOR LONDON.—Borneo, Pak Ling, Agamemnon, Wakasa Maru, Hitachi Maru, Tantalus, Prometheus.

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Indomeneus, Ningchow, Achilles.

FOR MARSEILLES.—E. Simons, Agamemnon, Pak Ling, Hitachi Maru, Polyphemus, Tantalus, Prometheus.

FOR BREMEN.—Seydlitz.

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Brigavia, Sazonia, Marburg, Suevia.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 9th October.—The volume of business during the period under review is very small. From Saigon and Bangkok to Hongkong, no demand. From Saigon to Philippines, four small carriers fixed at 20 cents per picul, prompt loading, which appears to fill present requirements. From north coast Java to this, 20 cents per picul last for dry, and 25 cents per picul might be obtained for wet sugar. Iloilo to Yokohama, 21 cents. Newchwang to Canton, 21 and 23 cents per picul. Coal freights.—From Moji to this, \$1.65 offering; to Singapore, \$1.90 nominally. From Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton last. Time charter.—The charter of M. Struve previously reported has since been cancelled. Sailing vessels.—The British bark Brilliant 3,609 tons net register has been chartered to load Shanghai and Hongkong for Baltimore and New York, terms private. The following are the settlements:—

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul (18,000 piculs).
Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Newchwang to Canton, (22.00 piculs), 21 cents per picul.
Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, \$6,000 in full.

Elizabeth Fickmers—German steamer, 1,021 tons, Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.30 per ton.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, hence to three ports north coast Java and back, private terms.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 20 cents per picul (prompt).

Undine—Norwegian steamer, 1,010 tons, Saigon to one or two ports Philippines, 20 cents and 23 cents per picul.

Themis—Norwegian steamer, 1,208 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (30,000 piculs), 20 cents per picul.

Binh Thuan—French steamer, 983 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 20 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—ARRIVALS.

4. Abessinia, German str., from Shanghai.
4. Brunnhilde, German str., from Sourabaya.
4. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
4. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.

4. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
4. Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
4. Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
4. Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
4. Pronto, Norwegian str., from Canton.
4. Siam, British str., from Shanghai.
5. Annam, French str., from Shanghai.
5. An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
5. Capri, Italian str., from Singapore.
5. Decima, German str., from Sourabaya.
5. Elg, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
5. Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
5. Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
5. Laissang, British str., from Calcutta.
5. Lillebonne, Amr. barque, from Manila.
5. Unda, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
5. Yiksang, British str., from Hongay.
5. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
5. Zaffro, British str., from Manila.
6. Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
6. Else, German str., from Haiphong.
6. Kwangping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
6. Mathilde, German str., from Singapore.
6. Talle, German str., from Deli.
6. Tantalus, British str., from Liverpool.
6. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
7. Callao, U.S. gunboat, from Macao.
7. Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
7. Kowloon, German str., from Bangkok.
7. Madel. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
7. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
7. Monmouthshire, British str., from London.
7. Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
7. Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
7. Sado Maru, Japanese str., from London.
7. Wuohang, British str., from Iloilo.
7. Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
7. Rosa, British barque, from Freemantle.
7. Triglav, Austrian str., from Kéban.
7. Wuohang, British str., from Iloilo.
8. Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
8. Haldia, German str., from Singapore.
8. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
8. Indravelli, British str., from Portland.
8. Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
8. Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.

October—DEPARTURES.

4. America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
4. Auping Maru, Jap. str., for Coast Ports.
4. Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
4. Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
4. Laertes, British str., for Shanghai.
4. Shanghai, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Cressy, British cruiser, for practice.
5. Ernest Simons, French str., for Shanghai.
5. Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Pronto, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
5. Savoia, German str., for Nagasaki.
5. Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
5. Unda, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
6. Annam, French str., for Europe.
6. Arratoon Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
6. Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
6. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
6. Emma Luyken, German str., for Wuhu.
6. Fausang, British str., for Samarang.
6. Hikokan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
6. Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
6. Hoihao, French str., for Hoikow.
6. Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
6. Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
6. Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
6. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
6. Tetartos, German str., for Samarang.
6. Wosang, British str., for Tientsin.
7. Abessinia, German str., for Hamburg.
7. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
7. Elisa, Rickmers, German str., for Hongay.
7. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
7. Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
7. Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
7. Siam, British str., for Singapore.
7. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
7. Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.
7. Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
7. Triumph, German str., for Hoikow.
7. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
7. Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
8. Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
8. Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
8. Indramaya, British str., for Shanghai.
8. Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
8. Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.

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